

The Middlebury Campus

Vol. 107, No. 24

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Since 1905



Jessica Appelson

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES 2009

This year's production of "The Vagina Monologues," a play written by Middlebury alum Eve Ensler '75, took advantage of the unusually warm weather to entertain crowds outside of a nearly finished Proctor.

Four crew athletes treated for CA-MRSA bacterial infection

By Tamara Hilmes
News Editor

In the past two weeks, four members of the Middlebury crew team have been diagnosed with and treated for community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA), a strain of antibiotic-resistant staph bacteria. The College has taken measures to prevent further spread of the bacteria, which include disinfecting equipment and informing student athletes as to how they can avoid contracting the infection.

The spread of CA-MRSA, however, is not limited merely to athletes. CA-MRSA is spread through skin-to-skin contact between otherwise healthy people outside of healthcare facilities — unlike the bacterial infection methicillin-resistant Staphy-

coccus aureus (MRSA), which typically occurs in hospitals and healthcare centers, such as nursing homes — according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

The first case of the most recent handful of MRSA incidents was diagnosed on April 20. About two weeks ago, Dave Peduto '11, a member of the Middlebury crew team, noticed a pimple on the side of his wrist. The next day, Peduto attended a regatta with his team and remembered noticing, in the middle of showing off his blisters, that the pimple had increased in size.

The next day, Peduto went to Parton Health Center, where they suspected that it might be related to the bacterial infection, and was referred to the ER in Porter Hospital. In the ER, the pimple was lanced and a culture was taken. An IV of antibiotics, two additional visits to the Health Center and a shot of novocaine later, Peduto had been diagnosed with CA-MRSA.

In the ER, Peduto met with a surgeon who told him that the bacteria was essentially living off of the dead skin in the area where the supposed "pimple" had been — the area, by this point, was completely black and purple and had grown, according to Peduto. The surgeon recommended operating.

"I did not really want to have surgery," said Peduto. "The doctor

What is CA-MRSA?

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a staph bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics. Staph or MRSA infections in the community are usually manifested as skin infections, such as pimples and boils, and occur in otherwise healthy people.

explained that he would have to go in kind of deep, and that he might nick a nerve that would reduce the feeling in my hand and fingers. At the same time, though, I didn't really have an alternative. I was pretty shaken up by that."

Peduto spent four days in the hospital on antibiotics, during which the infected area was removed. What started as a pimple, said Peduto, is now a gaping hole. Peduto continues to go to the Health Center twice a day, where the nurses clean and pack the area with wet gauze.

Before he contracted the bacterial infection himself, Peduto had never really thought much of the risks of CA-MRSA.

"That's the craziest thing about it," said Peduto. "You see the posters in

SEE TEAM, PAGE 4

White Whale revamps Web site

By Katie Siegner
Staff Writer

White Whale Web Services came to visit Middlebury on April 27 and 28, the first step in the College's Web makeover process that should be completed by Winter Term 2010.

College officials say that the current Middlebury home page is out-of-date and leaves much to be desired, prompting the creation of an Internet Strategy Task Force (ISTF) last spring. President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz charged the ISTF with the development of "a new technology platform to deliver the content of our Web site" that would entail the "updated design and information architecture of our Web proper-

ties."

The Web makeover project is progressing rapidly, according to an ambitious timeline that expects to launch the new site by the end of fall 2009, following the launch of the Monterey Institute for International Studies Web site in August.

The process of redesigning the Web site has been collaborative and open, partly "in reaction to the controversy over the maple leaf logo," which was adopted with little input from the College community, said Jason Mittell, associate professor of American Studies and Film and Media Culture and the primary faculty representative on the ISTF. The administration created three committees to oversee the Web redo project: the Requirements Commit-

tee, which met with various constituents around campus to establish what is needed from the new site, the Coordinating Committee, which deals with the administrative functions, and the Design and Information Architecture Committee.

Ryan Kellett '09.5 is a member of the Requirements and Coordinating Committees, and envisions a Web site that is "more reflective of the Middlebury community," as opposed to the current site, where "every page looks the same." Kellett has been involved in most stages of the process, which he stresses is designed to "bring in a lot of different people." The Web makeover project

SEE WEB SITE, PAGE 3

Midd leads local food initiative

By Cloe Shasha
Staff Writer

Middlebury College's local food initiative is a couple steps ahead of other colleges and universities. The amount of local food in Middlebury's dining halls — 25 percent from Vermont alone — is a number higher than at most other institutions. Some other colleges and universities across the country, however, have also made enormous progress in recent years towards a sustainable food culture.

In 2000, an environmental health and policy class sparked in-

terest in a group of Yale students to bring sustainable food to the University. As they learned more about the harmful effects of pesticides, they grew more driven to develop a sustainable food project and integrate local foods into the dining hall menus.

In 2003, the Yale Sustainable Food Project started the Yale Farm and a farmers' market and focused its first efforts on the dining system at Berkeley, one of the residential colleges at Yale, similar to a common Middlebury's system. For two years, 100 percent of the food in Berkeley's dining hall was sustainable, according to the University's sustainability purchasing guidelines. These guidelines were established with the help of the students involved in the project. Local food is bought first, followed by certified fair trade and organic foods, followed by the next best alternatives, depending on the particular ingredient.

"Since 2005, all of the dining halls — including the one at Berkeley — serve sustainable food," said Sustainable Food Project Program



File photo/Jessica Appelson

Coordinator Hannah Burnett. "The amount of sustainable food available has increased each year, and now we're at 40 percent in every dining hall," said Sustainable Food "We've collaborated with Yale Dining to make this happen,

SEE SUSTAINABLE, PAGE 4

Panzer prevails in run-off election

By Kara Shurmantine
Staff Writer

The results of a run-off election for president of the Student Government Association (SGA) pronounced Mike Panzer '10 victorious before 1:30 p.m. on Fri., April 24. Vrutika Mody '10, his opponent, lost by a slim 40 votes.

The election put an end to a two-week presidential contest whose first round of voting occurred last Thursday. This initial election failed to produce a majority for any one candidate.

Hiba Fakhoury '09, the current SGA president, was hopeful about her successor's new role. She congratulated him on his victory, saying that "his experience in the SGA will help him work on initiatives next year.... Mike knows the real issues like the honor code reinvigoration and dealing with the economic crisis, and I hope that he will dedicate the time to working on these issues as well as many others."

"I really hope that he will include Mody on his cabinet," Fakhoury added, "because she has also been very committed to the SGA and together they can work on a lot of projects."

However, the second component of the election, regarding three potential alterations to the Honor Code, remains undecided. Fewer



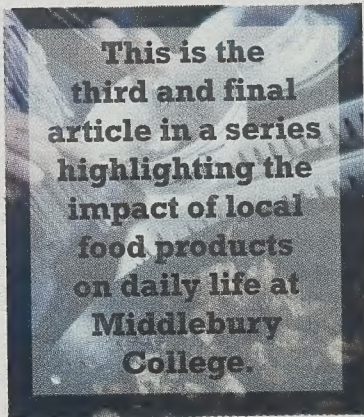
Grace Duggan, Photo Editor

students voted in this election overall than in the primaries, leaving these changes in limbo. When the SGA announced the results of the presidential election in a campus-wide e-mail at 1:23 p.m., the decision was still 120 votes short. In that e-mail, the SGA urged more students to vote on the Honor Code proposals.

Although Fakhoury expressed satisfaction with the voting turnout, Kate Strangfeld '12 was unimpressed. She felt that too few students were informed about this election.

"Many students are unaware about what SGA does for the student body," she said. "I feel like more students would vote if they knew more about the candidates and their platforms."

SEE DELOACH, PAGE 3



this week



Beyond cake in Bi Hall
Earth Day Fair on the town green was full of good food and fun, page 6.



Summer — suntan, or answer to the man?
See how your classmates plan to spend their break, page 12.

Across old blue
"The Europeans" to open tonight at 8 p.m. at the MCFA, page 17.





overseas briefing

by Catherine Klem '10

VALDIVIA — By some luck of fate, I managed to defeat all odds (namely buying my plane ticket for the wrong month) and find my way to Chile at the end of February to begin my five-month semester abroad in Valdivia. After being accosted for sitting in the wrong seat on the bus, nearly going home with an old woman whom I mistakenly understood to be my host mother and trying in vain on several occasions to speak in what I considered to be Spanish but was received as some Martian tongue, I found myself in a small car with my host mother, Lady, and my three-year-old Chilean brother, Alberto, hurtling through the narrow Valdivian streets. First stop — the fish market.

The fish market was a firm confirmation of every stereotype I have ever held of the vibrant South American life — voices yelling out in unison, “Loco! Loco! Loco!” (which I later learned to be a type of seafood — not an insult to my persona), a young woman who insisted on selling me a plant that appeared to grow eggs and sea lions (affectionately called sea wolves down here) flopping and growling on the river docks. After purchasing a delicious wild salmon and making one final inspection of the plants that supposedly grew eggs, we returned home and I settled into my new home in this small Chilean city, located in northern Patagonia, which runs along a beautiful river just miles from the Pacific ocean.

Later that evening, there was a brief misunderstanding in which I thought I was being asked whether I was sleepy and answered, adamantly, “yes,” not realizing that I had actually just asked for “pastries” to finish off my day. I fell asleep, the rich chocolatey pastries churning angrily through my stomach, excited by the prospect of five months of empanadas and wild fish and desperately wishing I’d paid closer attention in Spanish class.

Now, two months later, my Spanish is steadily improving, and I have settled into my daily activities of classes, soccer practices, an internship and, of course, vigorous amounts of bread eating (a true Chilean staple). At home I spend most of my time with Alberto, brushing up on my Spanish through episodes of “Hannah Montana,” reconnecting with my childhood glory days during intense coloring sessions and chasing after him in some sort of “police” game that I have not yet come to fully understand (and at which I am constantly losing).

In addition to acting 20 years younger, I’m also taking three classes at the University, and enjoying the much more relaxed Chilean schedule of each class meeting just once a week. I have also enjoyed leaving the busy city life behind on weekends to hike nearby volcanoes, raft down beautiful rivers and explore the countryside by bike. The misunderstandings continue, but they make for good stories (for instance, how many people can say they accidentally tried out for the Chilean National soccer team?). I have come to love the laid back Valdivian lifestyle in which napping, eating and TV watching are all daily necessities — pretty much the opposite of my former, hectic life at Middlebury.

Staff cuts aim to reverse '90s trend

By Adam Schaffer
STAFF WRITER

Since 1996, nonteaching staff positions have nearly doubled at Middlebury College in order to accommodate expansions in other areas of campus life. This trend, however, may end with the significant budget cuts Old Chapel has made in the past six months as Middlebury plans to cut 10 percent, or 100 positions, from the staff through attrition.

The cuts are a means to preserve the College’s core academic mission, Chief Financial Officer Patrick Norton wrote in an e-mail.

A “financial downturn in the order of magnitude the College is facing [has] challenge[d] basic financial assumptions” as to where the College can afford to spend money, explained Norton. For this reason, The College does “not anticipate rehiring the eliminated positions if and when the economy rebounds.”

The staffing reductions will occur across all areas of employment on campus: academic support, student services, dining and facilities, and institutional support, and will be enacted by the College’s new early retirement program, as well as the hiring freeze that began last summer.

In a memo to staff and faculty on March 26, President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz outlined how the budget cutting process has proceeded thus far, and assured that “we will pursue staff layoffs only as a matter of last resort.”

“We are fortunate that we began the budget cutting process relatively early with the freezing of open staff positions last summer, and have made what amounts to about \$10 million in budget cuts from next year’s budget,” Liebowitz wrote in the memo. “We have at least \$10 million more to go based on economic projections from the late fall.”

The increase in staffing at the College over the past 12 years has been dramatic — in 1996, there were 584 staff positions on campus, while in 2008 there were 1,008 positions. Nearly 60 percent of the \$75 million increase in College expenses since 1996 has been due to the increase in staffing. Overall compensation for all employees of the College — which includes salaries and benefits — in 1996 was

\$62 million in 2008 dollars, while in 2008 compensation cost the College \$107 million, nearly half of Middlebury’s total expenditures.

In a forum with the College community on November 2008, Norton explained that the increase in staffing was to be expected as the College expanded in other ways.

“When you increase the number of faculty, you increase the number of staff,” Norton said during the presentation. “When you increase the number of students, you increase the number of staff. When you increase the number of dining halls, you increase the number of staff. When you increase the amount of square footage, you increase the number of staff. That’s all been planned to increase over time.”

With the closing of Atwater Dining Hall in 2010 and the immediate closure or contraction of many of Middlebury’s auxiliary operations, this increase will not continue in the upcoming years.

This permanent cut in staff positions worries some, including Zach Fenster ’12.

“I think there a lot of people whose work we don’t see but without whom the College would not run nearly as smoothly,” wrote Fenster in an e-mail. “I don’t see why after economic rebound we don’t hire more people, unless it’s clear the funds would be better used elsewhere.”

Others, such as Mac Staben ’11, are more skeptical about the benefits of an enlarged staff, and see this reduction as a long time coming.

“The number of staff, when compared to the Middlebury student population, seems excessive to me,” Staben wrote in an e-mail. “The administration should do all it can to reduce staff nonessential to the core, liberal-arts mission of the College. Middlebury is an educational institution and if the staff infrastructure hurts that mission, then we should reduce staff and suffer the consequences of having exceeded reasonable limits in good economic times.”

Regardless, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science Murray Dry is confident that the cuts will not impact the academic mission of the College.

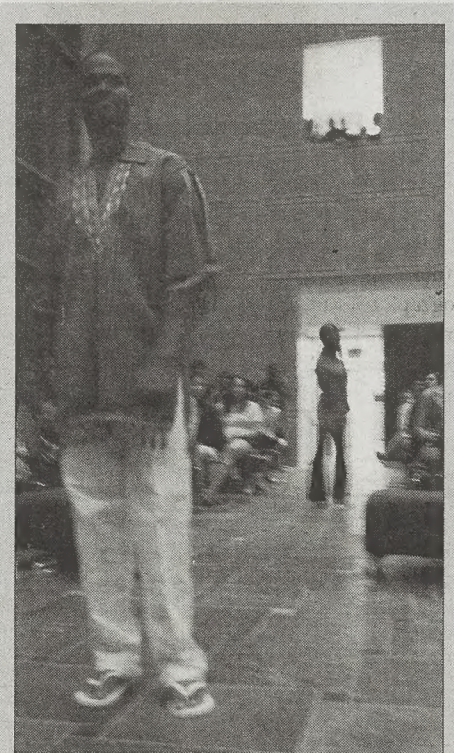
“My guess is that since academic depart-

ments have individual coordinators (a fancy term for secretaries) and these positions are not, as far as I know, being reduced, the staff reductions will not directly affect the academic program,” Dry wrote in an e-mail.

The only cut that will affect faculty, according to Dry, is the postponement of the planned annual addition of the new faculty positions for the next eight years. This cut will also affect students, as it will make the new senior independent work requirement harder to implement. Dry does not see the deferral of this proposal to be detrimental to the College’s core mission.

“I do not think this can be described as a serious blow to our academic programs,” wrote Dry.

Additional reporting by Jaime Fuller.



Meaghan Brown

AAA ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

On Saturday, April 25, the African American Alliance wowed crowds with their display of traditional African fashions in McCardell Bicentennial Hall.

Middbrief

by Amy Francisco, Staff Writer

Students and townspeople participate in Middlebury Maple Run

This past Sunday, students waking up before noon may have noticed the yellow flags, cheering supporters and almost 200 racers participating in the newly created “Middlebury Maple Run — The Sweetest Half.” The name refers both to one of Vermont’s quintessential winter activities — maple syrup-making — and to the race’s half-marathon distance. A nine-person committee, including Middlebury swim coaches Peter Solomon and Andy Weinberg, women’s cross country coach Terry Aldrich and Special Assistant to the President David Donahue, organized the

event.

“It is a great way to promote the Middlebury area and the run itself while also promoting one of Addison County’s — and Vermont’s — best known products: maple syrup,” said Angelo Lynn, another committee member and publisher of the *Addison Independent*. “It’s just the kind of race that could eventually bring hundreds of people to the area from around the Northeast and Montreal areas. It’s the right distance for the right time of year — and the picture we paint of the race, with its quaint Vermont theme, just sounds fun.”

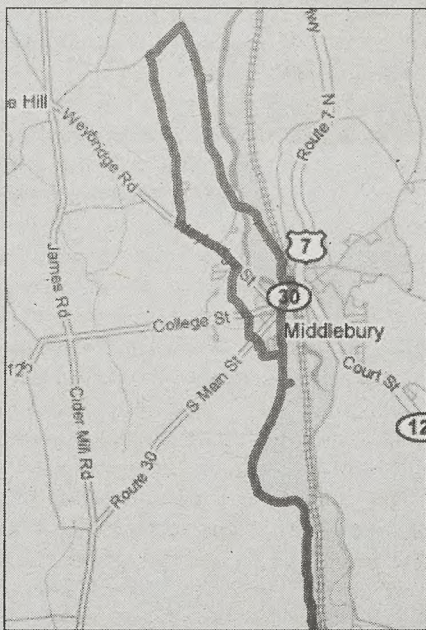
Runners began the 13.4 mile racecourse in the Porter Hospital parking lot, running through downtown Middlebury, across the Pulp Mill Covered Bridge and through Weybridge past the UVM-owned Morgan Horse Farm before eventually ending back at the starting point at Porter. Local runners Benj Deppman and Keith Wilkerson put together the course, one designed to be relatively flat and fast, while offering gorgeous views of the Adirondacks, the Green Mountains and other Vermont scenery, including Otter Creek and the Middlebury campus. While there were no huge prizes for overall and age-group winners, they did receive small containers of locally produced maple syrup. Also, all runners who registered by April 15 received a t-shirt and gift certificates to local businesses, such as Two Brothers

Tavern and the Vermont Book Shop. A portion of the race’s proceeds go toward the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Despite the gray, drizzly weather and the newness of the race, 185 participants turned out this year to run the half marathon, including a good number of Middlebury students. Weinberg anticipates double or triple this number in future years, and judging from the reactions of several college participants, such numbers should be no problem. Both Mike Graham ’12, first-time half marathon runner, and Katie Siegner ’12, who ran a half marathon in Shelburne, Vt. earlier this year, emphasized the importance of the support of local townspeople and students all along the course.

“It was definitely harder than the first half marathon I ran, but being in Middlebury was awesome because of the people you know cheering, and also the support of the townspeople,” said Siegner. “On the racecourse we kept passing little kids with signs saying ‘Go Mom,’ and through the town people turned out in pretty big numbers. Some people even brought their cars out to play music for us. The fan support was definitely a huge factor.” Graham described the atmosphere of the race as being very “relaxed and friendly,” despite the mix of runners training for full marathons and college students who had never run even a half marathon before.

For photos of the race, see page 7.



Courtesy

College recognizes faculty authors

By Catherine Ahearn
STAFF WRITER

Faculty members who published books in the past year were honored on April 24 at a reception in Special Collections at the Main Library. Eighteen authors were recognized for 24 titles, which were displayed for attendees to browse. The reception formally began when attendees, authors and supporters introduced themselves and said a few words about why they were present.

"I just like to come and see what I'm unaware of — what people have been doing," said Reference and Instruction Librarian Brenda Ellis. "I know about some of these things and I don't know about others so it's great to see them all."

Many, like Charles A. Dana Professor of History of Art and Architecture Kirsten Hoving, joked about their books among their peers.

"I hope it's the first blue book you'll really enjoy reading," Hoving said about her book titled "Joseph Cornell and Astronomy: A Case for the Stars."

Most of the faculty authors shared stories that allowed attendees to have a bit of insight on their experiences with writing. Professor of Geography Guntram Herb comically spoke about his frustrations while working on the book he edited, "Nations and Nationalism: A Global Historical Overview."

"There were over 150 contributors involved and if any of you have ever dealt with academics — it was like herding cats," Herb said, causing many laughs. "It is most likely something I will never do again. It has been a satisfying project but it is also something that will stay in the past."

Many of the authors treated their scholarship as a way to expand their knowledge and

on academic scholarship. Men's and Women's Squash Coach John Illig spoke about his book, "Man in the Middle: A Continental Trail Through-Hike," which is the last book of a trilogy and a narrative account of Illig's five month hike from the Mexican border to Canada.

"I'm definitely proud of the way the books turned out," Illig said, "and to be able to just come here and stand here in this room is an honor."

The displayed books varied in

I hope it's the first blue book you'll really enjoy reading.
— Kirsten Hoving

engage audiences.

"Writing is a process of learning, so when I'm writing, I'm typically reading a lot that I've never read before," said Professor of Computer Science Matthew Dickerson.

Dickerson, who co-authored "Narnia and the Fields of Arbol: The Environmental Vision of C.S. Lewis," sought to branch outside of his field.

"I write about what I think is important and what I think I can write about well," said Dickerson. "I'm appreciative of the opportunity to continue to learn. Having finished my Ph.D. 20 years ago, I don't have to be a static lump at a desk."

But not every author had his or her focus

form as well as subject. Professor of Russian Thomas Beyer published an iPod application and accompanying book titled, "iSpeak Russian Phrasebook." Beyer spoke about the effects technology is having on scholarship and traditional modes of learning, and about his attempts to stay in the game.

"Books and CDs are likely to exist for another 20 years in some format, but new media is already being overshadowed by things like iPhones, iPod Touches and applications," said Beyer.

The reception proved to be a great forum for observing where the scholarship of the College faculty members has taken them, as well as where it is headed.

college shorts

by Nicole Lam, Staff Writer

Yale announces 2009-2010 World Fellows

On April 23, Yale University announced next year's Yale World Fellows. The fellows include an advisor to the president of South Africa, a United Nations television producer and the opinions editor of leading Russian business daily, *Vedemosti*. These international professionals will spend the fall semester in New Haven attending classes, giving lectures and acting as a resource for students.

"The objective is to elevate international dialogue on campus," said Program Director Michael Cappello.

Each professional will be assigned a residential college and two undergraduate liaisons who will help network with other students. In turn, many fellows award their student liaisons with internships.

— Yale Daily News

Harvard lab finds 1 million year-old microbes

A Harvard University lab recently discovered single-celled microbes living in isolation for over one million years beneath the Taylor Glacier in Antarctica. This finding refutes the long-held theory that subglacial environments that lack light, oxygen or food cannot support life.

The National Science Foundation, NASA and Harvard's Microbial Sciences Initiative sponsored a team of researchers to lead an expedition to the McMurdo Dry Valleys in Antarctica. The research team discovered that roughly a dozen species of prokaryotic microbes about the size of bacteria were living in the iron-rich water that they were using for their experiments.

At Harvard's Hoffman Laboratory, the scientists discovered that these anaerobic microorganisms survive on the iron that leaks out from the bedrock with the help of a sulfur catalyst. Without any light for photosynthesis, the microbes have been feeding on the organic matter in isolation under the massive Taylor Glacier for an estimated 1.5 million to 2 million years.

— Harvard Crimson

Notre Dame puts hot computers to work

Notre Dame and its Center for Research Computing recently received the 2009 Green Enterprise IT Award, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, for their innovative work with the South Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant. The students are planning to transport the heat emitted from the university's computing equipment to the plant to break down waste. Typically, the plant creates its own heat by burning gas to break down the waste stream. The university students have thought of using heat released from computers to do the job instead of letting it go into the atmosphere to waste.

"I'm producing a lot of waste heat in my research computing ... and here is the Wastewater Treatment Plant creating a lot of heat to conduct their business," said Dewitt Latimer, the university's chief technology officer. "So why not bring the two together? Why not let my waste heat be used for their purposes?"

This sustainable initiative would save the city of Notre Dame, Ind., \$16,000 in natural gas for every 50 kilowatts. The university plans to move a mobile data center near the plant this summer to test its experiment.

— The Observer

Web site overhaul moves forward

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

created its own blog on the Middlebury site to explain the process and provide the opportunity for student and faculty participation. Furthermore, the Coordinating Committee invited four vendors — firms in charge of designing the Web site — to the College to give open presentations about their design ideas and allowed the audience to vote for their favorite.

White Whale, a small company comprised of five people from Oakland, Calif. that specializes in college and university Web sites, received overwhelming support and was enthusiastically endorsed by Kellett and Mittell.

"White Whale understood what it meant to be at a college," said Mittell, whereas "the other firms could have been designing for any institution."

Kellett felt that this smaller firm was "innovative and fun" and "trying to be very consciously different from the corporate look." Because of the firm's small size, they only work with a few clients at a time, allowing them to focus more in depth on their specific projects.

White Whale will orchestrate the design and information architecture of the Web site, which encompasses the navigation within the site, how the pages fit together and content recommendations, among other things. Everything else (the implementation, the building of the site, etc.) will be done within the College by a team from Library and Information Services and the Office of Communications, which will result in significantly lower costs.

Deloach, Sohl supporters aid Panzer in SGA contest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The SGA, the Faculty Council, the Community Council, and the Honor Code Review Committee (HCRC) all support the three recommendations, which would affect the first three articles of the current Honor Code. The first would extend permission to faculty members to proctor exams, the second would align the Honor Code's description of the academic judicial process with that detailed in the College Handbook, and the third would put the Judicial Affairs Officer in charge of



Courtesy, Janie Porche

The White Whale representatives came to campus earlier this week to discuss design plans.

As part of the design process, White Whale came back to campus this week for what Mittell called "a sponge visit." The purpose of the visit was for the firm to gain a better sense of what defines the College in order to ascertain what the company should include the final design.

"This is the real kickoff to the project," said White Whale representative Tonya Langford. In visiting the College, she and her colleague Janie Porche hoped to learn as much as they could and talk to as many people as possible so that the end product will "feel like Middlebury." Langford and Porche were interested in "collecting different stories and voices" to make the new site an authentic rep-

resentation of the College.

Right now, said Porche, their design ideas consist of a "pile of very incomplete fun sketches" based on the "bits and pieces" of information they gathered during their visit. Once they absorb all the information, they will begin to envision a more comprehensive plan for the new site.

Although the specifics of the site design are still up in the air, Mittell identified several general features of the new site, such as customizable home pages and tagging, which will allow students to "access the latest news on events that tie to their interest." The functionality of the College Web site will thus be transformed, and the site will be used more as a community tool.

The Web makeover project seeks to create "a document that is native to the Web," said Mittell, rather than one in which large bodies of text have been copied and pasted onto the page.

Because of the fast-paced timeline for the project, much of the work will be done over the summer, but again, the transparent attitude of the White Whale employees mirrored that of the project's working group. Langford and Porche said they "welcome feedback" and will be posting design updates online through Facebook groups and blogs.

"It's going to become a modern Web site," said Porche, and accordingly both White Whale and the working group at the College are striving to utilize all the technological tools available to make the project as open and transparent as possible.

the first-year Honor Code orientation process.

Fakhoury was enthusiastic about the Honor Code recommendations. "I think the changes in the honor code are a reflection of student ownership of their academic work and maintaining a community of trust," she said. "I think that by passing the recommended changes, both student and faculty interests will be preserved."

The Honor Code election will continue until the appropriate number of students, around 1700, have cast their votes.

SGAupdate

by Aseem Mulji, Staff Writer

The Student Government Association's (SGA) meeting on April 26 included a Finance Committee presentation and discussion of the Community Council and dining. Mike Panzer '10 called to order the meeting not only as speaker of the house but also as SGA president-elect.

Diana Chiu '10, representing the Finance Committee, gave a quick presentation on her committee's Spring Budgeting Report. She explained that the student activities fee would remain constant next year at \$380, reflecting the very low increase in the comprehensive fee.

Next year's Student Activities Fund budget will see some changes, including the creation of a \$45,000 pool fund to be utilized by individual students and the Commons for events throughout the year.

According to Chiu, the pool fund will both be flexible and will "encourage organic programming so we don't see reckless spending."

Senator Katie Hylas expressed her support for the pool fund but warned that the Finance Committee should roughly budget the funds throughout the year so it does not disappear all at once. She also suggested that the Finance Committee advertise the pool fund to educate and reach out to the student body.

Another budget change will decrease funding for super blocks by 50 percent and will restructure the funding for social houses. Funds for next year will be evenly distributed between large and small social houses alike. In previous years, larger social houses have generally received more funding.

"This is a way to provide equal footing to the smaller houses like Xenia to maybe attract more students," said Chiu. "KDR and Tavern are powerhouses, so they will still have the same [amount of] money to put on those same events."

Following the Finance Committee presentation, Community Council Co-chair (SCCOC) Antoinette Rangel '09 presented a minor language change to the recently drafted Community Principles Statement. The Community Principles Statement is a symbolic statement in which the Middlebury community officially reaffirms shared values of "respect, honesty and integrity." Instead of specifying various groups on campus, the statement will simply address the "Middlebury community." The change was made to appease the faculty. The SGA passed the language change with only one vote against.

First-Year Senator Tik Root then reported on his meeting with Dean of the College Gus Jordan about the role of the Community Council. According to Root and Jordan, the Community Council should be "reactionary more than proactive" and should leave legislation to the SGA.

At the end of the meeting, many senators voiced their constituents' complaints concerning the dinner menus for next year. Many students are worried that options will be all but eliminated if next year's two dining halls have the same entrée menu.

Rangel suggested that the \$100,000 earned by the parking fee be used to prevent such a quality decrease in dining services.

correction

In an April 23 article regarding the newly established parking fee, *The Campus* reported that Sean Dennison '11 believes, in light of the current economic climate, that he was "not ok" with the fee. In fact, Dennison had said that the fee was a legitimate and smart way for the College to boost revenue, since a fee is unlikely to deter people from driving. Only later, when told that there currently was no parking fee, did Dennison say that was "not ok" with it. *The Campus* regrets the error.

Team alters habits to avoid bacteria

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the gym — like, there's that poster right next to the door of the men's locker room with the guy with the scar on his knee talking about MRSA, and the ones by the water fountains in the fitness center — but you don't really think about it affecting you."

After Peduto had been diagnosed, three additional members of the crew team found themselves being treated for the infection, despite the immediate measures that were taken to disinfect all equipment that might have come into contact with the bacteria.

"As soon as the diagnosis of CA-MRSA was confirmed, all rowing equipment was disinfected using commercial-grade disinfectant solution or a 10% bleach solution," explained interim Crew coach Noel Wanner in an e-mail. "This process was repeated a second time the following week." The team has also begun to disinfect oar handles and seat tracks once a week, "as these are the areas which come into closest contact with the athletes, and where abrasions are likely to occur," according to Wanner.

Peduto worked with his coach to find other means of preventing further spread of the bacteria, which included assigning oars to specific members of the team for the remainder of the season. In the future, each athlete will be assigned one oar to use for the entire season, and when changes in the lineups require athletes to switch oars, said Wanner, the oar handles will be disinfected prior to the change. The increased use of disinfectant wipes, along with alcohol-based sanitizing gel, has also been encouraged.

"Three other guys got it after me," said Peduto, "that's the scary thing. I can't row, which is killing me, but we're just trying not to let it spread any more than it already has."

Director of the Health Center Dr. Mark Peluso also met with the team to discuss ways of preventing the spread of CA-MRSA, emphasizing the importance of maintaining good personal hygiene habits. Members of the team were told to shower often, wash their practice clothes after every use and to change their sheets more

frequently.

According to Peluso, dealing with the threat of CA-MRSA is nothing new.

"The medical literature began reporting CA-MRSA infections among sports teams in 2004, and several of our peer institutions experienced clusters of cases starting soon thereafter," he wrote in an e-mail. "We began instituting several prevention measures that were thought to be helpful in terms of preventing outbreaks. After an environmental assessment was performed to identify areas where CA-MRSA might spread, several measures were instituted, starting in 2005-2006."

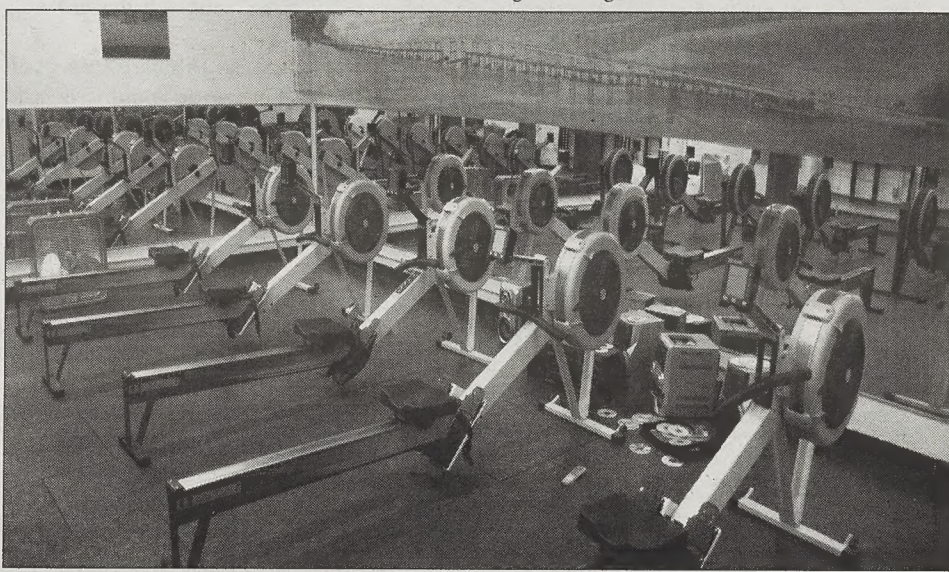
"A great deal of the credit in keeping Middlebury's infection rate low should be given to the Facilities, Sports Medicine, Equipment Room, and Athletics staff. These groups have taken CA-MRSA seriously, and made simple adjustments in their operations to prevent potential spread of the bacteria, often without needing to be asked. It's unrecognized in many cases, but many of the people that work at Middlebury College have shown great dedication to the students in this effort."

Despite the recent handful of infected stu-

dents, the Health Center did not issue a campus-wide e-mail as it has in the past—such as when an e-mail was sent out regarding mumps in the fall — denoting the risk of the bacteria. Peluso explains that this was not necessary, as CA-MRSA is not as highly contagious as the mumps, and the symptoms are more easily recognizable.

"The Health Center has not issued a campus-wide email regarding a cluster of cases on one sports team because it is an isolated cluster—not an outbreak," said Peluso. "The skin and soft-tissue landscape is changing, which is something that students and the entire American population are going to have to learn to live with. However, it should not cause excessive concern if proper prevention measures and care are followed."

"Most people don't know what it is," said Peduto. "When they ask, I've just been explaining it as a really bad skin infection. People have been great, in general, and really supportive. Probably the most politically-incorrect reaction I received was 'EWW!' But if what I've gone through can help raise a general awareness about it — if we can take that away from this — well, I think that's a good thing."



Ali Urban

Once the crew team discovered that athletes had contracted MRSA, the rowing equipment, along with the tracks in the boats, were cleaned in an effort to prevent any further spread of the bacteria.

Sustainability makes economic sense

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and since they became self-operated last year, they're even more poised to make change and focus on issues of sustainability."

UC-Santa Cruz (UC-SC) started a local foods initiative in 2004. In the university's dining halls, 25 percent of the produce purchased is local and organic. They also buy organic rice and milk.

"The produce comes from a consortium that we helped form so a group of local organic farmers could bring all their produce to a central location and then only one truck would come to campus," explained Scott Berlin, the director for dining and hospitality services at UC-SC. "There is also a connection to our campus farm with all of these growers in that they work with each other to utilize the research and training that the campus provides on sustainable farming techniques."

By participating in the Real Food Challenge, UC Santa Cruz hopes to have 20 percent of all of their food purchases be sustainable, local or organic. This would almost double their current purchasing trends.

Berlin mentioned that with more local

foods, the university will have to work on adjusting students' food expectations and foster willingness to eat seasonal food.

"We are blessed to live in one of the most fertile produce areas in the world," Berlin continued. "Sustainability is truly driven by region. With these resources available and with our year-round climate we have access to many food items for 12 months a year."

For many years, Williams College has been working on a sustainable food initiative. In the past four years, the college has replaced all of their conventional milk with local, hormone-free milk, and they have increased their overall consumption of local and organic foods by 30 percent. They buy almost all of their vegetables locally.

Williams' dining services have membership to Berkshire Grown, which is an organization that promotes sustainability in agricultural practices. The college has maintained a strong relationship with the farming community for several years, according to Chris Abayasinghe, assistant director of dining at Williams.

"In the last five years, we have accelerated our local food initiatives," Abayasinghe said. "We purchase \$300,000 of local food

per year, which comes out to about 10 percent of our budget."

One of Williams' sustainability goals includes developing more relationships with local farms and with the town, which they believe will expand their options for nearby food sources. But Abayasinghe said that purchasing only local food does not seem like a viable option for Williams, at least not in the near future.

"If we were to switch all of our food to local, the local farms would not be able to supply us with the amount that we would need," he said.

Williams students appreciate the sustainability efforts of the college, according to Abayasinghe. They value eating healthy, fresh and local foods, and a number of students are interested in helping the college achieve its sustainability goals.

More colleges and universities continue to express interest in incorporating sustainable food into their food budget plans. By consulting schools like Middlebury, Yale, UC-SC and Williams, other institutions can get a sense of how to initiate and deepen sustainability efforts in a time of economic instability.

public safety log

April 23 - April 26, 2009

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
4/23/2009	11:23 p.m.	Drug violation	Paraphernalia	Milliken Hall	Referred to Dean of the College and commons deans
4/25/2009	10:10 p.m.	Vandalism	Vending machine	Pearsons Hall	Referred to Dean of the College and commons deans
4/25/2009	4:58 a.m.	Vandalism	Writing on the wall near elevator	Prescott House	Referred to Dean of the College and commons dean
4/25/2009	8:15 p.m.	Collision	Vehicle to vehicle, hit and run	Q Lot	Referred to Dean of the College and commons dean
4/26/2009	10:32 a.m.	Theft from public space	Sweater	FIC Cook	Referred to Dean of the College and commons dean

The Department of Public Safety reported giving 10 alcohol citations between April 23, 2009 and April 26, 2009.

“poetry is a very solitary art ...
sometimes, you need an ear from somewhere else.”
—David Weinstock

Otter Creek Poetry Society celebrates National Poetry Month with Writing Marathon

elizabeth scarinci

staff writer

David Weinstock is not afraid to ask people tough questions, if poetry is what comes out of it.

On April 23, more than 20 community members gathered in the basement conference room of the Ilsley Public Library, as they do every Thursday, for the Otter Creek Poetry Society meeting. This Thursday, the group celebrated poetry month by holding a 3 1/2 hour writing workshop that Weinstock, the founder of the group, called the National Poetry Month Writing Marathon.

Over the course of the afternoon, the group — which ranged in age from nine to 89 — wrote prose and poetry to answer prompts proposed by Weinstock, such as “Who are you and what do you do in the world?” and “Write a story that you tell so well but have never written down.”

After writing for 20 minutes about the prompt, “Ask your body, one part at a time, to tell you some stories,” one man responded, “I had a long car ride with my arteries.”

Another member offered positive thoughts about living with diabetes: “I try to be friends with every part of my body. Diabetes keeps

me straight. It tells me that I have to work hard to keep the number down.”

Weinstock, an alum of the College’s Breadloaf School of English, started the Thursday workshop 12 years ago when he moved to Middlebury. He holds weekly meetings for Otter Creek Poets and bi-monthly meetings for the Spring Street Poets, a group of six members that discuss their poetry in more depth. Weinstock partially created the group to give poets a deadline.

“Poets never get deadlines,” he said. “It’s good for someone to say, ‘Write a poem now.’”

More than creating a deadline, Weinstock emphasized the virtue of the critiques.

“Poetry is a very solitary art,” he said. “You do it by yourself in your own room. Sometimes, you need an ear from somewhere else. Mostly it’s a matter of having someone to talk to about what you’re writing.”

The group has attracted poets from the inexperienced to the award-winning, and has even included professors from the College.

On a typical Thursday afternoon, the group meets to critique

poetry that the members have written. One member, Peter Szymkowicz, who has attended meetings off-and-on for the past few years, discussed how he has benefited from the open and inspirational group.

“You learn to defend the meaning in your words and the strength in your writing,” he said. “They inspire you to become more experimental and courageous.”

Another group member, Niel Worden, joined the club two months ago to transition from a 25-year creative writing hiatus since graduating from Colorado College. He commented on the constructive and open energy of the group.

“I have had some people say cutting things about my writing, but it’s coming from a constructive place,” he said.

During one of the discussions, the two nine-year-olds, Kiely and Orlando, whispered, “Can I read yours while you read mine?”

After the meeting, Kiely said, “I thought it was fun. One of the writings we did

was hard for me to think about because I’m more of an artist.”

Orlando showed concerns about the time limits during the workshop.

“I have so much that I wanted to do, but I couldn’t really fit everything in,” he said.

While two nine-year-olds attended the workshop on Thursday, usually the group consists of older, retired community members.

“It mostly tends to be older people, because that’s who is free on a Thursday afternoon,” Weinstock said.

Although he does not publicize the poetry group on campus, Weinstock encouraged any interested College students to come.

“Middlebury students are very welcome,” he said. “The group is open and it’s free.”

Weinstock ended on a proud note, praising the accomplishments of the writers in the group and all Vermont writers.

“We make poetry happen in Vermont,” he said.

10

11

The sweetest half

Middlebury’s first annual Maple Run half-marathon makes great strides for cystic fibrosis, page 7.

Celebrating the Earth

At Middlebury town green, residents celebrate the natural environment and tackle tough issues, page 6.



town/gown



by Grady Ross

Two of my friends here have lost a grandparent in the past three weeks. Lonely, empty, disorienting ... death is a bombardment of emotions that are hard for the onlooker to understand, unless that person has experienced the same thing. Having lost a grandmother three months ago, I should have been able to come up with the right words for the situation: "I know what you're going through. It's hard but you'll make it; I can relate." But in many ways, I couldn't. As they cope with the loss through overseas phone calls and private sentiment (no one else here knew that person, they can't commiserate together, they can't share memories), I gain a new appreciation for my proximity to home.

My Grandma B's death, for the family that gathered in her honor, was more of a celebration of the life she lived: while it was obviously a sad occasion, the pictures I have from her funeral are so filled with smiling faces that anyone browsing through the album would assume it was documentation of a birthday party or a graduation or any other celebration. Mother of 12, grandmother of 52 and great-grandmother of 11, the funeral was bound to be packed. Out of everyone, only one grandson didn't make it. I have memories from that week of my entire extended family: loud, everyone speaking over each other,

"How 'bout those Red Sox. It looks like we'll have a good team this year."

"We'll be heading down to Rhode Island this summer to settle it."

"A cranberry bog, acres of cranberries, right there on our farm ..."

"It was the depression, you know, and the factory owner comes up to me one day ..."

"Congratulations! When are you due?"

Throughout that week, I went to classes during the day and returned home in my free moments. It seemed normal to me that I would share this with my family, and be there throughout the entire process. But recently, as I listened to my friends lament the fact that they couldn't leave campus at such times, I remembered that my mobility between school and home allows for a connectedness to family and the continued ability to take part in the building of memories.

Two weeks ago, I left campus to attend the surprise party for Grandpa Jim's 80th birthday. Just last night, I attended a barbeque at my cousins'. My grandparents drove down to Saratoga last week to watch me race with the crew team. My brother stopped at the crosswalk for me last Monday as he drove through campus. This Wednesday is my mother's birthday: there will be cake and presents and a party ... and even as exam week rears its ugly head, I will be relatively stress-free in those moments we are together.

Before you get too annoyed at my smugness about my family's togetherness, I'd like to state the obvious: no family is perfect. All families are weird. No family has the solution to life's problems. That said, I'd rather take my family with all of its faults than no family at all.

You're welcome to share — the next time I go home for dinner you all are invited. Seriously, come. My mom doesn't believe I have friends here.

Town gathers for Earth Day fest

By Becca Fanning
STAFF WRITER

As Middlebury community members came out of winter hibernation to enjoy the beautiful weather, listen to live music and sample local foods, the message for the environment was perfectly clear. Despite the current economic crisis and the nation's seeming preoccupation with large-scale financial problems, the residents of Middlebury appreciate the importance of preserving and celebrating our earth more than ever.

Earth Day Coordinator Laura Asermily viewed the day as "a celebration in recognition of the community's achievements and strides we have made toward oil reduction." While the fair was certainly used to raise awareness of several local campaigns, such as Acorn Energy Co-op and Efficiency First, its festive atmosphere kept the day community-oriented and family friendly.

The celebrations began early, with an open drum circle, which assembled at the gazebo on the town green at 9:30 a.m. Middlebury Union High School students joined with Middlebury College students and community members to continue the live music into the afternoon.

"The music was even better than in past years, [as it] provided a real cross-section of the community," said Asermily, who is also the Energy Coordinator for the Middlebury Area Global Warming Action Coalition (MAGWAC). With the afternoon's array of impromptu performances, "people played whatever they were moved to play." If music is any indication of the public's interest, environmentalism in Middlebury is a concern held by members of all age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds.

To accompany this soundtrack, local children were encouraged to wear costumes, or

given monarch butterfly wings to wear in a downtown parade. Seeking to inspire those exact members of the next generation and offer information about environmental awareness, a group of local business owners followed the butterflies downtown. Vermont Soap created a suds table for kids, while another station taught the importance of composting by assisting with seed planting in composted soil. Children's handmade cards of thanks and appreciation for the earth will be posted at the local library.

Driven by the theme of local food production expansion, the festival offered a plethora of locally grown foods, and worked to collaborate with the season's finale of the Middlebury winter farmers' market. MAGWAC saw the



farmers' market as a way to truly keep things local and encourage year-round inter-community food sharing.

Peter Carothers, of the Addison County Relocalization Network, also sought to raise awareness about and increase membership of



the Acorn Energy Co-op. Among its other efforts at carbon-neutrality, the Co-op sells locally produced wood pellets as an oil replacement so as to reduce carbon emissions.

"We handed out brochures, talked to citizens and tried to get people interested," said Carothers. While the event was certainly successful and Middlebury as a whole has had an enthusiastic response to environmental changes, there is still a lot to be done to integrate the community.

"Saturday's turnout was not indicative of the movement's strong community backing," Carothers said. Asermily agreed that they had expected more Middlebury residents and College students to attend.

Carother is currently working in collaboration with the College's environmental economics class to study the cost-effectiveness of including the "Hillcrest 6" neighborhood in the College's biomass streamlines. The dialogue about the relationship between the environment and the economy is one in which Carother is very active. He believes that most people will continue to make sound judgments when making economic choices and remember to take into account environmental concerns. However, continues to be vocal, hoping to encourage such environmentally responsible choices.

"There [exists] a sense of complacency in terms of next winter's heating. Oil prices will rise. People will certainly realize that wood pellets are the better option."

Asermily agrees that, even in the economic recession, there is not at all a declining interest in environmental issues.

"People seem just as devoted [to environmentalism], if not more so. People are looking for ways to cut back and this often translates into energy savings. They see that," said Asermily. She expresses hope that these consumer cut-backs will motivate people to take small steps toward energy efficiency or "go for the lower hanging fruit while they plan for the investments that they will eventually make."

As another Earth Day comes to a close, it is clear that Middlebury citizens don't need a designated holiday to celebrate the earth. The efforts shown at this year's Earth Day celebration confirm a community-wide devotion to a greener future that exists every day of the year.



Ali Urban

LOCALLY LOCO

a log of the (sometimes) crazy events off College Street
from the Middlebury Police Department public log

4/21 — MISC. INCIDENT

Caller reported receiving a call from a male who said his name was Don Zimmer, who wanted him to invest money for a 40 percent gain.

4/15 — SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Report of someone loosening the lug-nuts on his vehicle; could have to do with ex-girlfriend.



Statehouse brief

4/30 - Today, opponents and supporters of nuclear power plant **Vermont Yankee** will speak out at a public hearing at Marlboro College. Vermont Yankee needs backing from the state legislature to operate past the 2012 expiration date of its current license. The Louisiana-based **Entergy Corp.** wants to extend the license to operate until 2032.

4/24 - Governor **Jim Douglas** has spoken out in favor of state budget cuts instead of raising taxes. The **House** and **Senate** are looking at about \$24 million in cuts to balance the state budget.



Angela Evancie

THE SWEETEST HALF-MARATHON IN MIDDLEBURY

Above: Maeve Whelan-Wuest '09.5 and Hillary Gerardi '09 reach the top of a hill at the inaugural Middlebury Maple Run on April 25. Right: Mike West '10 and CRA Maegan Olivos pace themselves in the final leg of the race.

The Middlebury Maple Run started at 9 a.m. at Porter Hospital on South Street, winding 13.14 miles through town and the College to end again at the hospital. The run was the first of its kind in Middlebury, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Participants ranged in age from 10 to 66, with a significant number of College students participating. Chetan Huded, 23, of Hanover, N.H., finished first with a time of 1:15:54 (for a map of the race, see page 2.)

Top finishers

1. Chetan Huded, 23 — 1:15:54
2. Nicholas Campbell, 23 — 1:25:19
3. Carl Scott, 51 — 1:26:49
4. Chas Lyons, 31 — 1:26:55
5. Richard Foote, 51 — 1:26:56



Angela Evancie

local lowdown

Family yoga

April 30, 10:30-11:15 p.m.

Come to Otter Creek Yoga in the Marble Works for a fun, playful yoga class for preschoolers and their parents. This event is free, but donations of \$10 or nonperishable food items for HOPE are very welcome. For more info: 388-1961.

Used record sale

May 2, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As part of the monthly used book sale, the Ilsley Library in Middlebury will be hosting a special sale of vinyl records. Come for a great selection of collector's items. Info: 388-6867.

Garden open house

May 2, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

The Middlebury community garden at Otter Creek Brewing is hosting an open house and potluck. Bring a dish to share and register for a garden plot. Bring work gloves and tools if you would like to work in the beds. Gardening experts will be on hand to answer questions.

Lawnmower exchange

May 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Otter Creek Brewing's "Mow Down Pollution" campaign will allow you to trade in your gas lawnmower for a new Neuton electric mower at a greatly reduced price. Info: 388-9478.

MIDDLEBURY

RAMUNTO'S

Real Simple...
Real Good

NEW

FEATURED PIES

SANTA CRUZ: ARTICHOKE HEARTS, FRESH LEAF SPINACH, GARLIC & TOMATOES

STEAK AND CHEESE: GRILLED STEAK, MUSHROOMS, ONION, GREEN PEPPERS & CREAMY MOZZARELLA

ROASTED BLISS: OUR FAMOUS BASIL PESTO TOPPED WITH GARLIC ROASTED RED BLISS POTATOES. REAL SIMPLE. REAL GOOD

BLT: CLASSIC FLAVORS - CRISPY BACON, CREAMY MOZZARELLA, MAYO, SLICED TOMATOES AND GREEN LEAF LETTUCE

AMAZING MUSHROOM: LOTS OF FRESH MUSHROOMS, LEAF SPINACH AND RED BELL PEPPER

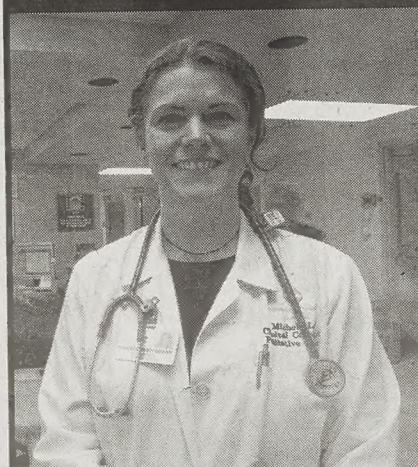
FIRECRACKER: PEPPERONI, HAM, BACON, PINEAPPLE AND FRESH JALAPENO PEPPERS

GODFATHER: SAUSAGE, MUSHROOMS, KALAMATA OLIVES, CRUSHED RED PEPPER, ANCHOVIES

CALL 388-7755

21 MACINTYRE LANE • MIDDLEBURY

Make the move to Nursing



Want a rewarding career as a nurse?

Do you already have a bachelor's degree?

The University of New Hampshire's Direct Entry Masters in Nursing (DEMN) program is for you!

The University of New Hampshire offers both a two year and three year accelerated program to earn your masters degree in science of nursing as a clinical nurse leader.

For more information regarding the DEMN program please visit the website: <http://www.unh.edu/nursing>

Attend our DEMN open house: May 13, 2009 @ 6:00 pm
At the MUB Theater II, University of New Hampshire
Please RSVP by visiting our website above.



UNIVERSITY
of NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Middlebury Campus

Managing Editor Tess Russell	Editor-in-Chief Brian Fung	Business Manager Grace Close
News Editors Jaime Fuller Tamara Hilmes	Local News Editors Amanda Cormier Kaity Potak	Opinions Editors Peter Baumann Ian Trombulak
Features Editors Aylie Baker Rachael Jennings H.Kay Merriman	Arts Editors Andrew Throdahl Emma Stanford Emily Stephens	Sports Editors Kevin Carpenter Emma Gardner Jeff Klein
Photo Editors Grace Duggan Andrew Ngeow	Online Editors Erin Hansen Ernest Russell	Layout Editor Hannah Wilson

Editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the editorial board.

Demystifying the bubble

This issue's impassioned opinion piece titled "The perils of Club Midd," in which Adam Irish '09 indicts the "Middlebury bubble" for instilling in its inhabitants "egotism, improvidence and avarice," certainly got us talking. However, before we could even begin to address Irish's specific examples of institutional bloat, we found ourselves facing a much more fundamental struggle — how to define the "bubble" in the first place.

Of course, we have all heard the term thrown around by various members of our extended community. Professors and parents sometimes cite it when bemoaning our ignorance of national issues or important life skills; enthusiastic first-years, not bothering to lock their doors, might praise its idyll just as frustrated seniors are blaming it for a lack of viable dating options. These distinct interpretations of bubble culture all carry connotations of isolation and insulation, but we each decide whether we define such terms economically, socially, geographically or through some particular combination of those factors. Irish chooses to see our privileged separation from the outside world as part of a dangerous recipe for corporate greed, while others may choose to focus instead on the inherent benefits of a haven where we are free to concentrate on our studies and extracurricular pursuits.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember when discussing the bubble phenomenon is that it is by no means unique to Middlebury; indeed, the entire system of higher education in America — particularly at liberal arts colleges, where vocational training is considered anathema to the guiding principle of intellectual exploration — is based on the construction of artificial societies, populated solely by academically inclined 18- to 23-year olds, which do not intend to represent the real world. Middlebury and its peer institutions, then, are not in the business of breeding "Masters of the Universe," just as they are not primarily designed (much as we might like to think they are) to produce socially or environmentally conscious graduates.

The precise benefit of the bubble atmosphere lies in the room it allows for personal development. Some students may manipulate that freedom toward malicious ends — they may "ride the Panther," and draw the rightful wrath of critics like Irish — while others will admirably seize the opportunity to effect positive changes at Middlebury and beyond. The bottom line is that, when we are liberated from many of the daily responsibilities faced by those on the outside, we have the luxury of succeeding and failing on our own terms; this, it seems, is the defining characteristic of the bubble, at Middlebury and elsewhere.

And what of the notion that, in such trying times, these collegiate bubbles are poised to pop? Call us naïve, but we think it will take more than wide-ranging budget cuts to dampen the ingenuity of Middlebury students and their peers. So, while we cannot agree with Irish in "welcom[ing] the recession," we do look forward to seeing students' innovative approaches to saving money — let's call it the upside of the bubble — at work across the nation.

contact the campus

To contact The Middlebury Campus Publications with story tips or content suggestions, e-mail: campus@middlebury.edu or find us on the web at: www.middleburycampus.com

The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign 2.0 and is printed by the Press Republican in N.Y. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Office phone: (802) 443-5736. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.

GAYPRIL



"Every time you walk past the Gaypril calendars in the library, don't you find yourself reducing the gay community to a group of people who like making out in public and taking artsy black and white photos of themselves?"

John Birnbaum

Notes from the desk: Jeff Klein

Defining 'productive' more productively

It's hard to believe that my time at Middlebury is almost over. I know that it is an extremely hackneyed expression but I feel like the four years have come and gone in the blink of an eye. I can vividly remember driving up with my parents for first-year orientation while my two younger brothers stayed behind, knowing that their oldest brother would no longer be home to hang out with and help (OK, and annoy) them on a regular basis. I remember driving up through the rural Vermont roads that smelled of manure while my mom teasingly reminded me that "You know, Jeff, you could have been on your way to Georgetown right now." I remember finally reaching the school, seeing that first blue and white "MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE: Founded in 1800" sign as well

as all the beautiful athletic facilities on the right. I remember finding a space in the crowded parking lot and approaching Kenyon Arena to pick up my orientation materials. I remember walking up to my first-year residence hall and

meeting my roommate and suitemates for the first time, all the while thinking, "Damn, I'm finally a college student." And finally, I remember my parents leaving with proud expressions on their faces as they told me to be good and that they knew I'd do well.

Less than a month away from graduation, I can say with complete honesty that I feel fortunate and blessed to have been a part of this institution for the past four years. I think the College — even more so than many other top-caliber schools — really attracts a diverse group of people with a wide range of passions and goals.

Among other things, I admire the typical Middlebury student's "can-do" attitude, uncanny ability to multitask and continual drive to achieve. I think a good amount of Midd-kids get a true sense of fulfillment from succeeding, especially in the classroom — and are willing to push themselves to the limit in order to ensure that success. All of these attributes are undoubtedly positive and create a vibrant

student body that is constantly looking to break new ground in various disciplines.

But for all those positives, I can't help but offer up some criticism of the prevailing attitude concerning "productivity" on campus. Simply put, I feel as if too many students view productivity only through the lens of academics. Countless times I've overheard people lamenting how "unproductive" they were — and in nearly all of those cases, their self-perceived lack of productivity stemmed from failing to finish enough schoolwork in an allotted period of time. Never have I heard anyone say something to the effect of, "I was so unproductive today — I didn't socialize with anybody." Or, "I was so unproductive today — I didn't go for a jog outside in this beautiful weather"

(and thus nourish the body). Do we really have such a singular view of what constitutes productivity and success?

While I can completely understand the argument that furthering our education is a central reason

I feel as if too many students view productivity only through the lens of academics. Do we really have such a singular view of what constitutes productivity and success?

as to why we are all here, I also know that so many other factors exist that contribute to a healthy, successful lifestyle that stretch beyond academia. Believe it or not, relaxing can be extremely productive, in so far as it reduces stress and gets you into a positive state of mind. Yes, it is definitely important to get that 15-page political philosophy paper done, but don't discount the benefit of kicking back and watching a ballgame with a few friends.

So what exactly am I trying to say? Come on, I don't really know — after all, this is "Notes from the Desk," and I'm entitled to ramble a little bit. But I guess if I were to identify the central idea that I'm trying to impart, it's to keep everything in perspective and recognize that life is multidimensional.

Now *that's* a productive mindset.

JEFF KLEIN '09 IS A SPORTS EDITOR.
HE IS FROM CHAPPAQUA, N.Y.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Op-ed: Mike Waters

It was with complete horror that I read last week's issue of *The Campus*. Buried on page four, behind headlines like "Dwyer wins coveted CC chair" and "Preview days host 400 students," was an item of news that will change in the way we live here at Middlebury College — one that should not have been so marginalized with a position in the bowels of the paper. The announcement that "All dining halls will serve same main course" is an enormous departure from what we have come to expect here at Middlebury, and while I take serious issue with the way the issue was overlooked in *The Campus*, I have more problems with the idea itself.

Over the past few years, Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette has instituted or been involved in a number of significant changes to the Middlebury College dining experience. The removal of trays, the disappearance of juice at dinner, the downsizing of Midnight Breakfast and the impending closing of Atwater have all been met by significant student uproar. But as each change has been explained, we have begrudgingly accepted, and then forgotten about the issue. All have been the result of economic forces outside of our control, so we understand the need to make cuts in times of turmoil. However, this latest change — to remove any bit of variety between dining hall menus — has no logical explanation and cannot be explained away by the current economic crisis.

While the article hints at "streamlining," ultimately this has nothing to do with the decision to institute uniform menus across the three dining halls. Instead, this change will be initiated in an effort to shorten lines — an admirable cause, but one approached in completely the wrong way. I'm no economist, but let's examine a couple of simple economic concepts:

Based on the simplest of all free market rules — supply and demand — it is clear that the demand for some dishes is quite high. This leads to long lines at one dining hall, while the others are less crowded. Sure, people might complain about this crowding, but it clearly is not enough for them to give up their pursuit of that dish altogether. I say, let the people decide; if long lines really are that big of an issue, don't you think everyone would just go somewhere else? There's no need to increase supply unnecessarily; sometimes a good thing is worth waiting for.

Second, let's consider economies of scale — the idea that producing anything in bulk is cheaper than in small quantities. If there were some economic rationale for this change, the

most likely scenario would be that the College could save money by producing only one dish instead of several. However, based on the current dining hall setup, this would not be the case. Serving only one entrée each day would not increase the ability of Dining Services to buy in bulk, and they would also not be saving any money on labor or equipment, as each dining hall would still have to produce its meals on-premises with the same number of staff using the same equipment. Unless Biette plans to switch to one central processing plant (perhaps a plan to do this in Battell is in the works and will be revealed in the Local News section of next week's paper), the College will not save any money by switching to a universal menu.

Ultimately, the most important part of this issue is that it is an attack on our quality of life here at the College. While school administrators may fail to see the importance of dining when compared to the academic program, as students eating three meals a day, food constitutes an enormous portion of our college experience. Unfortunately, this lack of understanding does not come as a surprise, as Biette does not seem to understand certain critical components of college life. When asked about the daily rush periods in the dining halls, Biette responds, "Don't come at 12:25 on a Tuesday ... you guys are smart ... beat the line by coming a little earlier or later." Interesting idea, but you know why the dining halls are so crowded at 12:25 on a Tuesday? Because we have class, Matt, we have class. So while you might not understand why a "conga line" is forming in Ross, the answer is quite clear on my end.

The problems with the decision to switch to a universal menu are manifold. Aside from the absence of economic reasoning, the ignorance of student issues and the way the change was reported, the very obvious lack of student input and involvement is appalling. This switch will markedly change the way we live — the time-honored tradition of typing "go/menu" will be no more, and dining halls will lose their individual identities — yet we had no say in the matter. This represents a dangerous precedent, and the countdown begins until we decide to outsource our food to Sodexo or pave Battell Beach. This change is an assault on our quality of life here at Middlebury, and it will not stand.

MIKE WATERS '10 IS FROM
BEDFORD, MASS.

heardoncampus

There's that poster next to the men's locker room with the guy talking about MRSA but you don't really think about it affecting you.

— Dave Peduto '11

PARKING NOW, WHAT NEXT?



Elizabeth Zevallos

The Middlebury Campus

Everyone has an opinion.
Share it.



campus@middlebury.edu

"Notes from the desk" stirs up debate among students

Op-ed: Alex Benepe

I was severely disappointed by Andrew Throdahl's '09 critique of Angela Evancie in his article "Constructive and Unconstructive Methods of Change." It is rather shocking that a college student like Throdahl could be so condescending to a fellow student engaged in the arts. Ridiculous hyperbole such as using the word "Gestapo" to describe Evancie's art would have made the article laughable if it wasn't so terribly harsh and narrow-minded. Furthermore, his critique lacked perspective or research — or at least he didn't mention any.

Over the years, I have had several friends who worked in the dining halls. All of these students have told me the same thing: once they put on their uniforms, they might as well be invisible. Their friends walk by them without even noticing that they are there. I know this is true because I myself have almost missed them on a few occasions when I was standing just a few feet away loading up my plate with food.

These friends have also confided in me that it is true that members of Dining Services staff do feel very unrecognized and unnoticed. Most students do not even acknowledge them or say hello, even though they see them at the same time, at the same place, almost every single day for four years

in a row. Therefore, regardless of Evancie's role in facilitating our connection to these photographs, there is a necessity for a show of this sort.

Throdahl also mentions that he was not present at the show. If he was, then he would have observed the fact that many of the men and women who appeared in the photos came to the opening and were cheerfully meeting many students they hadn't talked to before. This more casual interaction, rather than a client/server interaction that we often assume at the dining hall, allowed many students and staff members to open up to each other, and now these students and staff are probably greeting each other on a daily basis in the dining halls. Thus, not only was there a need for "recognition," but there was also a very direct, positive result from it.

Throdahl also failed to seek any statement from the artist, or the opinions of any other students involved with the work or who attended the event. All in all, his article was an unprofessional piece of journalism that comes off as venting rather than a calculated critique.

ALEX BENEPE '09 IS FROM
NEW YORK CITY.

Op-ed: Kevin Redmon

Bravo! Mr. Throdahl has performed a pitch-perfect hatchet job on Ms. Evancie's recent photography installation, "Recognition." He need not fear, as he does in his April 23 editorial, that he "might be faulted for believing too piously in the redemptive power of art." My primary concern isn't even the absence of a discernible structure or thesis in his argument, much less his slavish devotion to absolutism through art: It's his lack of integrity as a writer and editor.

Let me be clear: This is neither an issue of press freedom nor of censorship. Let Mr. Throdahl espouse whatever sharp-tongued criticism he wishes, and let this newspaper print it — but let him also be fair. His position as an editor and columnist does not absolve him of his responsibility to uphold the journalistic ethic.

The most disturbing part of Mr. Throdahl's piece was his willingness to ascribe thoughts, emotions and motivations to others from the comfort of his position behind a glowing computer screen. Unfortunately, those are the tools of the fiction writer — not the journalist. If Mr. Throdahl wished to know how Ms. Evancie approached the themes of her installation, perhaps he should have asked

her. But to write that "most students, who both are and are not grateful for those that feed and clean up after them, feel guilty for not meditating on each 'poor staff member' that was photographed, and feel obligated to pace in disturbed silence from frame to frame" is patently disingenuous and lazy. He carelessly projects onto Ms. Evancie a middle school student's angst and *Weltanschauung*, and casts her peers at the art opening as hapless, simplistic Philistines.

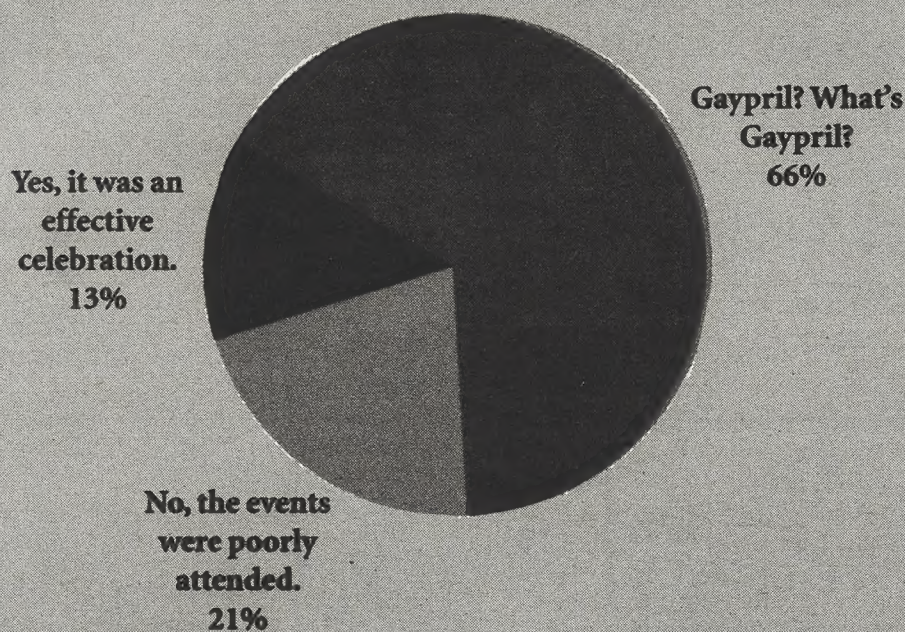
For someone who contemptuously pins to others the adjectives "self-righteous" and "condescending," while simultaneously praising "empathy" as our most precious social value, I found Mr. Throdahl's tone to be dripping with the former but devoid of the latter.

Mr. Throdahl is a virtuosic pianist and sometimes astute music critic. I have seen him perform and read his work many times. It's a shame that his closing movement at Middlebury has been to thoroughly and publicly embarrass himself — and sully the pages of this newspaper — with his vitriol.

KEVIN REDMON '09.5 IS FROM
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

The Campus Poll

Would you consider this year's "Gaypril" celebration a success?



Next week's question:
What are you up to this summer?

In order to make *The Campus* opinions section a more accessible medium, starting this semester *The Campus* will include a poll containing not only numerical data but also personal statements from interested students. Each week we will post the poll question for the next week's issue. Go online to www.middleburycampus.com and select the response that best reflects your position on the issue. Feel strongly about a particular poll question? On the left side of the web site click on the tab entitled "Send a Letter to the Editor" and, in 150 words or less, explain your rationale for voting as you did. Everybody has an opinion. Share it.

Op-ed: Kate Lupo "Green cleaners" at Midd Xpress

Midd Xpress is a staple of student life on campus. The store provides not only late-night snack food, but also the essentials of everyday life: toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry detergent, etc.

Most students buy their favorite items at Midd Xpress out of comfort and reflex. Yet, what if students began to question what they purchase by considering the safety of ingredients and environmental impact of store-bought items? This op-ed will focus specifically on cleaning products at Midd Xpress in an effort to encourage students, as responsible consumers, to buy "green brands" like Seventh Generation and Ecover over toxic, generic brands like Febreze, Tide, Gain, and Clorox.

If you knew that *Tide* detergent and other traditional laundry soaps may contain toxic chemicals like alpha-terpineol, benzyl acetate, chloroform and others that could potentially cause headaches, asthma, liver and kidney damage, skin disorders or even cancer, would you consider buying a safer, more environmentally friendly alternative?

Green products are not only better for the environment, but they are also safer for the consumer's ongoing physical health. A product like Gain detergent may have that fresh spring smell you prefer, but the chemicals used to make that smell are causing damage to your body and will eventually harm the environment by seeping into ground water once leftover laundry machine water is flushed down the drain.

Middlebury students regularly approach the manager of Midd Xpress, Dave Kerin, to discuss the selection of green products in the store. Mediating the demands of the eco-conscious clientele and the reality of making a profit gives him a more difficult job than most people realize.

According to Kerin, "It would be the ideal to only sell socially responsible, environmentally sensitive products, buy 100 percent local and achieve 100 percent recycling, but the greatest X factor has always

been the limited commitment of our clientele." Students demand that Midd Xpress sell "green products," but once the items are on the shelves,

students ironically do not buy them.

For a while, "green products" came with price and quality concerns, so consumers continued to buy generic brands. Yet now that prices and quality are competitive, Midd Xpress encourages students to buy the "green products" that are in stock.

While Middlebury students "talk the talk" about respecting the environment, they must "walk the walk" by following through as responsible members of the community and as responsible consumers. On your next visit to Midd Xpress, instead of defaulting to old habits, take a look at the display of more responsible, greener products on the opposite side of the aisle.

KATE LUPO '10 IS FROM WESTON, CONN.
SHE IS THE SGA CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

Op-ed: Adam Irish The perils of Club Midd

I am happy the recession has come to Middlebury College. I welcome it. I hope for more budget cuts and less generous donors. I look forward to paying for printing and a halt to perpetual construction. No, I don't hate my alma mater. I despise what is known as the "Middlebury bubble," or more tellingly, "Club Midd." Few would question the existence of this shadow institution — we've all seen it printed on t-shirts. Many, however, would dispute its influence on the mores at Middlebury College. After spending four years in the bubble, I believe Club Midd breeds egotism, improvidence and avarice in its 2,350 inductees.

First, an anecdote, a story that *The Campus* didn't print and probably never would. A couple years ago I went on a Middlebury Model United Nations (MUN) trip to Chicago. Our airfare and hotel fees were subsidized by an endowed fund and we even received a meal allowance. The conference was great, and worth the expense. Two students in the group, however, decided to skip all MUN events in favor of shopping and a concert. Here at Middlebury, where "riding the Panther" is a favorite pastime of many, this story might induce laughter and even congratulations for the clever absentees. And why not? They got a free vacation out of it, worth at least \$2,000 per person. Best of all, one of those students was the treasurer of MUN. For those of you initially inclined to snicker, welcome to Club Midd. Now that you're in, though, you should know that it's rather difficult to get out.

Certainly, the ivory tower has shaped students since the dawn of higher education. But the Middlebury bubble fosters something more than mere superciliousness. To illustrate, pardon an extended metaphor. Club Midd is like a cruise ship. It's an all-inclusive luxury package. The vessel boasts three distinctive restaurants with all-you-can-eat buffets. For leisure activities, enjoy regular dances, concerts, free movies and clubs. Play golf or swim in the pool on deck. Keep fit in the gym. There's a maid service, of course. And no tips necessary.

Many attempt to deemphasize this depiction of Club Midd by pointing out students' weighty workload and constant high stress. What they fail to see is that academic slavery is essential to the Club's design — in fact, its members are the rowers powering the vessel. Club Midd's purpose is to produce an industrious, obedient, elite professional class with a blind and all-consuming devotion to work. Furthermore, as a natural reward

for its lofty service, the class feels entitled to a seamless, insular lifestyle in which it can both work and pursue pleasure in the same concentrated and thoughtless manner as it labors. Like the pendulum on a clock, the members of Club Midd swing from extreme work to extreme recreation, never slowing down to think, to see, to feel, to recognize right from wrong.

It's no coincidence that L. Dennis Kozlowski is a former Middlebury College trustee. The Tyco CEO was convicted of stealing over \$400 million from the company, some of which he used to set up an endowment at Middlebury. And why not also mention Ari Fleischer '82, the Middlebury alum and Bush mouthpiece, who admitted to endangering the life of covert operative Valerie Plame when he broke federal law by leaking her name to the press? Then there's Richard S. Fuld Jr., a major donor, current trustee and the CEO of Lehman Brothers before

I'm thrilled to see the inevitable result of Club Midd coming back to threaten its own existence.

the firm collapsed and took our global economy with it. Arrogance, greed and shortsightedness authored Lehman's unscrupulous and frankly idiotic investment practices. Those foibles were not merely endemic in the firm's culture, but were also in the reproductive system that supported it — until recently, Middlebury boasted a longstanding contract to manufacture and deliver new Lehman employees. Indeed, membership in Club Midd still remains necessary to become such a "Master of the Universe," to quote Tom Wolfe. And look at what those Masters of the Universe do.

I'm thrilled to see the inevitable result of Club Midd coming back to threaten its own existence. Cuts in budget, the obstacles to College indulgence, mean that the bubble grows less resilient, the Clubhouse a little shabbier. And this is a good thing. Having served on the SGA and the Comprehensive Fee Committee, I know the College budget is not merely overweight, but morbidly obese. In recent history, the whole of American higher education embarked on an amenity and en-

dowment arms race, pushing tuition up and up and up with no conceivable ceiling. Unfettered by budgetary constraints, giddy administrators force-fed the College whatever they fancied. These excesses are buried under the umbrella "comprehensive fee," today the price of a Jaguar. As one example of this deliberate institutional sleight of hand, many students refer to the dining hall food as "free," an important illusion for the maintenance of Club Midd.

But what of other local effects? On a small scale, take the fellow who liked to poop in Forest Hall showers one semester. On a medium scale, how about the snowboarding club's founder, who spent over \$7,000 of student activities funds on himself? And then on the large scale, there's 51 Main, although I prefer its absurd first incarnation as a "chocolate bar." The pinnacle of College extravagance, we justify this socialized restaurant because a donor promised to pick up its \$800,000 expected annual deficit, leaving the College off the hook. But wouldn't that money be better spent paying the salaries of eight more professors? Or why not the tuition of 16 Middlebury students? I can't imagine this donor would say no.

But certainly we find the most illustrative example of Club Midd in the stairwell of Hepburn, beside the door of Ross Dining Hall, in the kitchens of Forest. We spend over \$40,000 annually to replace broken dishware because students fail to return plates to their personal dishwashers. Naturally, the College does nothing to lessen the mountain of lost and broken ceramic. After all, what lowly staff member would dare tell a budding Master of the Universe that he can't use a coffee mug like a Starbucks paper cup?

I will not pretend to be outside of the Bubble. I am in it like everyone else. Simply by being here, Club Midd has instilled in me, as in all Middlebury students, a certain moral framework, worldview and set of behavioral tendencies that will persist for years to come. That said, I think an awareness of Club Midd helps to ward off its poisonous effects, and maybe, with the help of an obliging stock market, will someday pop the Middlebury bubble.

But I doubt it. People like those t-shirts for a reason.

ADAM IRISH '09 IS FROM RYE, N.H.

Behind Enemy Lines: Andrey Tolstoy

I demand a recount

A few months ago, I stumbled upon a YouTube video of Paul Potts, the phone salesman who won the first season of "Britain's Got Talent" with a performance of Puccini's "Nessun Dorma." Throughout the competition — and life — Paul's greatest obstacle was the unsightliness of his own teeth. Often bullied as a child, he became quiet and unconfident. Music was his solace. When he walked on stage in front of Simon Cowell and timidly said he wanted to sing opera, the camera panned around the auditorium, revealing hundreds of scornful and incredulous faces. A minute and a half later, the audience sprang to its feet in standing ovation and Amanda Holden looked like she could use a cigarette.

Two years later, Britain's got more of the same. *The New York Times* reports, "Part of the joy of watching [Susan Boyle's] performance was seeing the obnoxious,

Things exist in opposition to others. We had to exaggerate the extent of closeted American racism to make Obama's candidacy just implausible enough to cause anxiety in anticipation of opening up the discourse of a post-racial United States. Similarly, we have to exaggerate the extent of our prejudice against Susan in order to give "Britain's Got Talent's" financial triumph its flimsy moral underpinnings. Some time after Paul Potts won, Simon Cowell described the experience to a journalist, inventing unnecessary whimsical details like the contestant wearing "a funny little suit." Now the press is latching on to Boyle's sarcastic remark about having "never been kissed" because it fits so nicely with the image that makes her story archetypal.

However, our incessant back-patting and simulated awe at Boyle's achievement perpetuates the stereotype that the

Our incessant back-patting and simulated awe at Boyle's achievement perpetuates the stereotype that the older and aesthetically imperfect are inferior.

older and aesthetically imperfect are inferior by default to those who aren't. It is undeniable that her performance was good, but that's not the real story. The real difficulty she had to over-

come was the lifelong charge of taking care of her mother, which left her little time for anything except winning local singing competitions at the old lady's insistence. Boyle hesitated before entering "Britain's Got Talent" because she feared the entertainment industry prioritized a certain kind of body image — and she was right. The judge with the greasy hair told her: "Without a doubt, that was the biggest surprise I've had on the show in three years." In other words, Susan Boyle didn't win on her own terms. She won because for a few minutes the world decided to privilege one side of a false dichotomy that clearly hasn't changed as a result: Susan Boyle needed self-esteem, but only found pity and condescension.

As it has times before, "South Park" had it right again last week: "If one more person talks to me about that Susan Boyle performance of Les Misérables, I'm going to puke my balls out through my mouth."

The premise underlying people's fascination with Boyle is the low standard she initially set for her singing by being quirky and unattractive. What amazes me is not the fact that she has succeeded, but how her story has been misused without anyone making much of a fuss. The true purpose of heaping praise on Susan Boyle is the reaffirmation of faith in our own humanity ... at her expense, and that of everyone who identifies with her.

ANDREY TOLSTOY '10 IS FROM ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.

Waters to Wine: Mike Waters

The fallacy of 21

As the writer of an alcohol-themed column aimed at college readers — the majority of whom are under the age of 21 — it is high time that I tackle the issue of the drinking age. While other more topical ideas were enticing — drinking in the great outdoors, drinking with parents, drinking in daylight (the now famous "darty") — younger readers would be critically underserved without attention to this important issue. The drinking age debate seems especially important here at Middlebury, given the attention we've gotten from President Emeritus of the College John M. McCardell's Amethyst Initiative and his nonprofit, Choose Responsibility. To support these endeavors, McCardell has made appearances on such esteemed television programs as the NBC's "Nightly News with Brian Williams," CBS' "60 Minutes," and — most impressively — "The Colbert Report." And while McCardell probably brings less controversy than some of Colbert's other guests — say, Bill O'Reilly — the drinking age debate remains a contentious issue.

While all of us have grown up with a national drinking age, the idea itself did not exist prior to the 1980s. The law sprang out of broad legislation aimed at curbing drunk driving, which included several recommendations, the legal drinking age of 21 among them. According to Choose Responsibility, when this legislation was passed, the other recommendations were overlooked and individual states began passing drinking age laws almost immediately. The legislation stipulated that any state with a drinking age lower than 21 years of age would lose 10 percent of its annual federal allotment of highway money, so while there still exists no national law stipulating a legal drinking age, by 1987 all 50 states had laws on the books making 21 the new legal age for the purchase and consumption of alcohol.

Current debate still centers on worries about drunk driving and pits Choose Responsibility against Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the main lobbying group in favor of the law. To support its position, MADD cites statistics that indicate a decline in drunken driving fatalities since the imposition of the legal drinking age and frames the debate as choosing between life and death. Arguing against MADD seems nearly impossible — after all, the organization supposedly represents something we're all for (mothers) against something we're all against (drunk driving) — and their framing of the argument makes anyone opposed seem in favor of car crashes with disastrous consequences.

While MADD presents some valid arguments, the legal drinking age of 21 has proven to be a failure. Decreases in drunken driving fatalities are easier attributed to increases in car safety, seat belt use and designated drivers than to the law alone, and the law itself

has done little to prevent underage drinking. Instead, as McCardell so effusively argues, the law has driven drinking underground, leading to rises in binge drinking as underage drinkers consume alcohol privately, often in large quantities.

For my part, I see many good reasons to amend the law and bring the drinking age back down to 18. First, the idea of abstinence-only in relation to anything — be it sex, or in this case, drinking — is a naïve concept. High-profile teen pregnancies dispute the effectiveness of abstinence-only approaches to sex ("Bristol" comes to mind, and I'm not thinking of the town in Vermont), and a stroll through a college campus on a weekend night similarly forces one to confront the reality of underage drinking. This reality — that kids will drink regardless of the law — means that we should work less to keep them from doing it than to make sure they do it safely. With a lower drinking age, those under 21 would worry less about hiding their drinking and could learn how to drink responsibly. If the age were lowered to 18, kids could better learn to imbibe from their parents, as parents would have the chance to have a legal drink with their children while they still live under the same roof, instead of sending them inexperienced into the overwhelming world of collegiate drinking.

Additionally, I've always found the law about highway funding to be an interesting attachment to alcohol legislation. Given that the main lobby for a higher drinking age is specifically concerned with driving, it seems ironic that the two are so intertwined. In Europe — often cited as the model for a healthy drinking culture — drunk driving would rarely be an issue because of the many options for public transportation. So in addition to our dependence on foreign oil, suburban sprawl, bailouts and minivans, perhaps we can also lay the blame for our questionable drinking age on the auto industry. I'm surprised that no state has lowered its drinking age, highway funding be damned. Tourist revenue alone — from young people coming over the border to purchase alcohol and visit bars — would seem to be enough to make up for the loss of highway funding, although those dollars would probably be better put to use to build up national public transportation infrastructure.

The opportunities for debate are endless — which could be why the issue persists, as all agitated underage drinkers eventually turn 21 and stop caring. So while a solution might not come for some time, young people can express their disapproval with some good old-fashioned civil disobedience — if only Thoreau knew protests could be this fun. Cheers.

MIKE WATERS '10 IS FROM BEDFORD, MASS.

The Middlebury Campus

Like our print edition? You'll like us even better on the Web, when we relaunch our site in fall 2009. Keep your eyes peeled for a refreshed, all-new www.middleburycampus.com.



Students take the world in stride as they embark on summer

By Margaux Fimbres,
Staff Writer

Abroad

After spending the fall of 2008 in Hangzhou, China, **Alex Kent '10** made returning to the country a top priority. Through the Department of Chinese at Middlebury, Kent discovered an internship opportunity with Emerging Asia, a consulting firm with offices in Shanghai started by a Middlebury alumnus. Kent's tasks will involve conducting research and interviews in Chinese with clients and professionals in a variety of fields. While in Shanghai, Kent will either be living with other Middlebury students in China or with a host family.

"The thing I'm most looking forward to is taking the train to Hangzhou for a weekend to see my Chinese friends and stroll through my old haunts," said Kent. "My former roommate told me that the cramped, lurid street lined with noodle shops and fruit stands where we used to get food every day hasn't changed a bit." Kent is also planning to pick up his old bike from Hangzhou and take it back with him to Shanghai.

Christian Gettermann '11 is tentatively planning to work for a language school in Málaga, Spain. The school hosts students from all over Europe for intensive Spanish immersion. Gettermann, whose older sister previously worked at the school, will be coordinating home-stays and assisting the staff in his bilingual position.

Middlebury, Vt.

Alexandra Fisher '10 will be working as a research assistant in the Department of Geography with another student under GIS Specialist and teaching fellow William Hegman. Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) will fund the research as part of its Streams Project, which focuses on collecting data and monitoring the health of the streams in the Lake Champlain basin. Fisher and her colleague will be focusing specifically on reorganizing the data to make it easily accessible for high school students and teachers in the area. Fisher will reorganize the data in the GIS lab and will create a prototype for displaying the data online. Hegman and the two students will meet with teachers in the area to help tailor the Web site to fit classes of different disciplines.

"I plan to use the research I will be doing this summer as a springboard to begin formulating my thesis for next year," said Fisher, who is majoring in environmental policy. She intends to explore the diverging effects of the United States and Canadian policies and the impact that these environmental laws have on the streams in the Champlain watershed.

After spending the fall of 2008 in Hangzhou, China, **Hannah Lincoln '10** wanted to find a job where she could use her Chinese and still spend the summer in Vermont. She searched <http://craigslist.org> and found a job opening with the Middlebury Monterey Language Academy as a residential advisor for middle- and high school students. The ensuing interview was conducted in both Chinese and English, and although Lincoln was nervous,

she landed the job. As a residential advisor, Lincoln will be expected to do what a normal residential advisor does at Middlebury, but in Chinese. Like a camp counselor, Lincoln will help the students with the adjustment to "China Camp" and, in true Middlebury Language Schools Fashion, she will speak only Chinese for a month.

"I'm not entirely sure what to expect, but having lived in China for a semester, I'm feeling very relaxed about working a month at China Camp," Lincoln said. She will be joining two of her friends working as residential advisors but is also looking forward to making new friends.

Washington, D.C.

This summer, **Matt Joseph '09** will start his full-time job at the Department of Justice's Environmental and Natural Resources Division in Washington, D.C., as a paralegal in their Honors Paralegal Intern Program. Joseph applied online for the job and then did a phone interview with a panel of six people. He will be writing legal briefs and doing research in support of government attorneys.

"The Obama Administration will be developing several new environmental policies that my division will have to enforce and defend in the coming years," Joseph said. "It will be very fulfilling to be on the front lines with the new policies and the chance to make a difference in any way I can." After his two-year commitment is up, Joseph plans to go to law school.

Living in Georgetown over the summer, **Molly Farber '10** will be commuting to Capitol Hill to work as an intern for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. While Farber was attending Arabic Language School in the summer of 2008, a fellow classmate suggested she apply for the internship. The Committee is headed by senator John Kerry (D-Ma.), but Farber will be working under the assistant to the staff director. In addition to miscellaneous office work, Farber will be assigned to help create profile portfolios for foreign relations officers. She is excited to be exposed to working for the government and hopes this internship will open up new job and networking opportunities.

Byron Rath '10 will take part in the Intern Development Series for the Middle East Institute. Rath will be fostering discussions about the Middle East as well as contacting potential donors. The Middle East Institute also offers the interns one free language class and Rath plans to complement his Arabic language skills with another language from the region. Rath wants to "get a sense of the atmosphere in D.C. and to see how a think-tank operates."

Rodrigo Seira '11 will be working for the Roosevelt Institution, a progressive think-tank based on college campuses that has been expanding in the past few years. As part of the Roosevelt Academy Fellowship program, Seira will be gathering research for policy papers and finding ways to make the Roosevelt Institution's voice heard by policymakers in Washington, D.C.

"I am very excited to be able to have an opportunity to have a say in the direction of our country by making the progressive voice heard and providing innovative solutions for our old problems," Seira said.

East Coast

Instead of returning home to Carmel, Calif., **Morgan Rogge '10** will be venturing to Martha's Vineyard to intern with the Nature Conservancy. Rogge began the process of searching for a job by looking at MOJO, but she found out about the internship through a professor and through an e-mail sent to biology majors at the College. The internship is conservation-based, so she will be outdoors most of the time planting, assessing ecosystems and eradicating invasive species. She will also be restoring the habitat in the coastal sandplains, where development and tourism have

caused a lot of damage.

"I've never been to Martha's Vineyard before, and I'm excited to do things that could actually have an impact," she said.

In Duxbury, Mass., **Rebecca Chin '10** will return to Camp Wing, a program that is a part of Crossroads for Kids. This will be Chin's second summer working at Camp Wing as a cabin counselor for girls aged 11-14. She will teach the girls swimming, lead sports and game activities and help the girls transition between all the activities during the day. For both boys and girls aged 7-14, Chin will coordinate activities such as fishing, boating, archery, climbing, high wires and the ropes course.

"Working at a summer camp is such a rewarding experience and I truly believe it can teach someone life lessons in how to interact with others," Chin said.

West Coast

In Boulder, Colo., **Colin Struthers '11** will be selling bikes and working as a mechanic at University Bicycles (U-Bikes). Struthers worked there in high school and is looking forward to working there again this summer because road and mountain biking are two of his favorite pastimes. In addition, the shop stresses professionalism, but makes sure the employees enjoy themselves by sponsoring weekly barbecues and softball games (sales vs. mechanics).

Hannah Lowe '10 will be interning for Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash. Her Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) internship is centered on a comparative ecological study of temperate and tropical rainforests, focusing mainly on how much microbial community structures (bacteria living in the soil) can give information on the overall health and longevity of the rainforest ecosystem as a whole. Lowe will be spending six weeks in Washington and six weeks in Costa Rica. Lowe expects to be in the field collecting soil samples and surveying plant and animal wildlife. In the lab, she will analyze the samples and write reports.

"This is going to be my first intensive research experience, so I'm really looking forward to learning and practicing all of the lab techniques, not to mention spending my summer in some beautiful locations," said Lowe.

"The road less traveled"

Discover what some of your classmates have done during their semesters off, pages 14-15



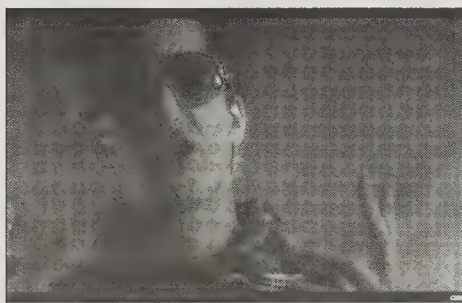
Farewell to MiddSexGuy

A.J. offers some final words of reflection and advice, page 16.



Cow-kissing extravaganza

Find out what it looks like when Liebowitz puckers up for a cow, exclusively on our Web site: <http://middleburycampus.com>.

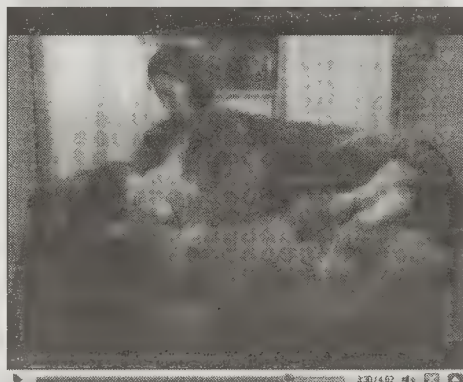


"Jizz in My Pants"

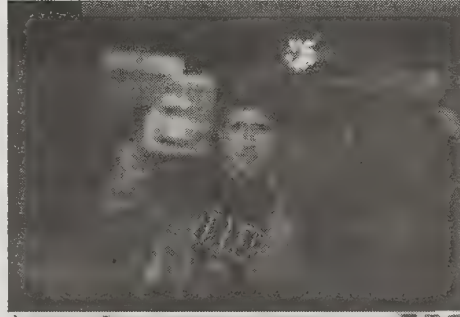
First debuted on SNL, The Lonely Island's hit single gives a whole new meaning to premature ejaculation. The funniest aspect of the music video, aside from the singers' facial expressions when they mimic the experience after which the song is named, is the electronic musical interlude that makes the song believable as a top-40 hit. Look for an appearance by Justin Timberlake as a janitor, and for more from The Lonely Island, check out "I'm On a Boat" with a guest appearance by T-Pain.

"Breastfeeding... at 8."

Watching this mother breastfeed her two daughters who are old enough to read, write and play piano is truly disturbing and yet, impossible to stop watching. Do people really live like this? Apparently so, and apparently, at age eight, a mother's milk is still "better than a million melons!" "So what do you think is the right age to stop breastfeeding?" the reporter asks. "Never," they both respond. "Never."

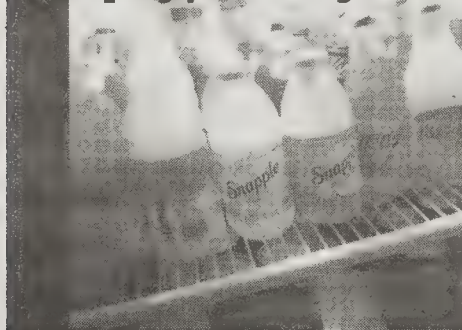


"Asher Roth — 'I Love College'"



Simple and yet iconic, this less-than-glamorous portrayal of frat life makes Midd-kids either nostalgic for the good old days or thankful that they will never have to clean up a mess like that. Either way, we can all appreciate the grammatically incorrect message "my good friends is all I need." Let's just hope all those Solo cups the extras are holding did not go to waste.

"Keeping your refrigerator stocked will get you many women"



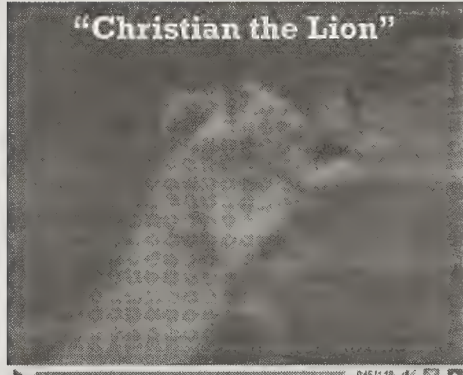
The speaker offends multiple races and genders when he asserts, "If you have an assortment of drinks in yo' fridge, it's gonna open up the world. Women are gonna come over here. They gonna be comfortable. I know it sounds silly, but I want y'all to feel me on this right now," before opening his refrigerator to reveal an astounding variety of beverages. Still, we have to give the man props for all the effort he puts into luring women into his apartment. Does a fully-loaded mini-fridge in Battell have the same desired effect?

Whether we receive them via mass e-mails with the subject "Dude, this is hilarious!," reference them in daily conversation, watch them with friends over Otter Creek brews or simply use them as a distraction from that pesky political science paper, YouTube videos inundate our lives. Perhaps we identify with the rather unfortunate symptom described in "Jizz in My Pants" or maybe we just want to feel a love like that of Christian. In reality, watching small children, college students and generally average people receive their one to five minutes of fame gives us hope of one day achieving such recognition. As if you needed a means to procrastinate with finals fast approaching, here are the top YouTube videos of the 2008-2009 academic school year, as determined by a less-than-scientific polling of students. Search 'em, watch 'em, mock 'em, share 'em.

Most-Watched **You Tube** Videos of the Year

H.Kay Merriman, Features Editor

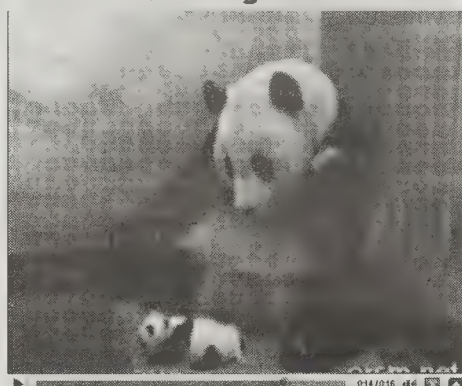
"Christian the Lion"



Although this footage was originally posted two years ago, the recent addition of Olivia Newton John and Aerosmith as background music made the video popular this year. Although the captions encouraging us to "share the love" may be a little corny, it cannot be denied that the massive lion-human embrace makes us all want a good hug.

Alec Baldwin showed this clip to Tina Fey on "30 Rock" and it has been passed around offices and dorm rooms ever since. The only thing cuter than the baby's entire body convulsing in a sneeze is the way the mother looks genuinely human in her surprised reaction.

"Sneezing Panda"



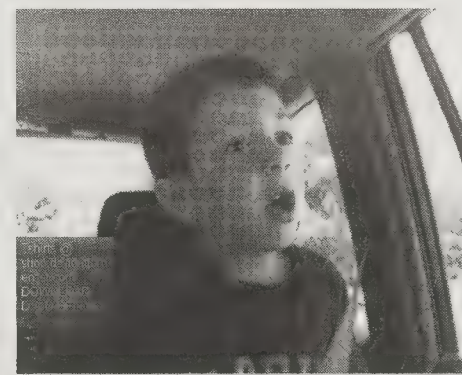
A preteen Rihanna wannabe offers a strikingly literal interpretation of the pop star's hit single. The humor lies not in her dance moves but in the serious expression she maintains throughout the song. Reminiscent of the self-choreographed dances of our childhoods, her creative use of a light switch in place of a strobe definitely earns her some credit in our book. Can't get enough of the lip-syncer extraordinaire? Don't worry — she has recorded dances to almost every hit that has topped the charts this year.

"Disturbia by Doglover"



"But... he's gay!"

Sure, newscasters are expected to slip up every once in awhile, but this Channel Seven Action News anchorwoman reveals some subconscious homophobia while attempting to regale the feat of a blind mountain climber. The clip is worth watching at least twice in order to catch her co-anchor's reaction.



"Cooking by the book with Chef Lil' Jon"



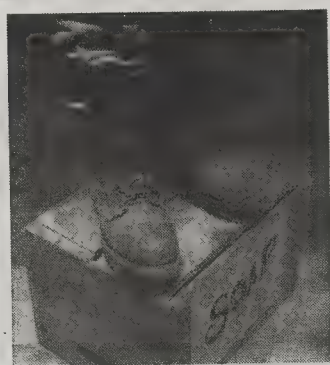
A brilliant yet disturbing mash-up of a Nick, Jr. TV show clip and a Lil Jon rap music video has seen an increase in views at Middlebury recently, after "Lazytown" star Julianna Rose Mauriello visited the College as a prospective student. She is no Emma Watson, but if she matriculates, she is liable to be the next feature of Middlebury's rumor mill.



This seven-year-old's visit to the dentist turns out to be quite a trip. Struggling to describe the sensations his body is experiencing, he finally lets out a shriek in his Dad's backseat. This video makes you question the ethics of parenting and also incites an unprecedented jealousy of root-canal patients.

"David After Dentist"

Ben-Official



by Ben Benson

Is anyone else heated about the changes in Dining Services next year? When I first heard that the College is shutting down Atwater Dining Hall next spring, I was fairly upset, but after reading in *The Campus* last week that both Proctor and Ross will serve the same entrée, I was dumbfounded. When I first visited Middlebury, the students I stayed with raved about the freedom, variety and quality of the food. How can the College completely eliminate what used to be such a central and enticing attribute?

Now, I know that this column isn't in the Opinions section, so I'm going to try to look at this issue from a nutritional perspective only. Why don't we add up the grams of fat in three typical Ross Dining Hall meals? For breakfast, how about an egg-and-cheese omelet with a moderate serving of potato wedges and a glass of skim milk? That is approximately 24 grams of fat: nine in the eggs, nine in one slice of cheddar cheese and six in the potato wedges. Breakfast may have been on the larger side so how about we have a lighter meal for lunch?

Let's go for a salad with "lite" Caesar dressing, some feta cheese and one half-cup of corn chowder. Well, that's eight grams in the soup, six grams in the cheese, eight grams in the "lite" Caesar dressing, bringing us to a total of 22 grams of fat for lunch (without even enjoying a burger, hot dog, chicken finger or dessert). So, through two meals, we've consumed 46 grams of fat, leaving the average 21-year-old only 15-20 more grams of fat for the day. Next year, instead of the opportunity to go to Atwater for dinner to enjoy some low-fat grilled chicken and a pasta bar, we'll only have the option that Ross is serving.

So let's examine one of Ross's favorites, chicken parmesan. In a restaurant serving of chicken parm, there are around 60-70 grams of fat, but say we eat about half of that and with no side dishes. After dinner, we've cumulatively consumed over 80 grams of fat, which is significantly more than the recommended maximum of fat for a single day. Did I mention that we only had a light lunch, didn't have dessert at any meal, didn't eat pizza, and didn't have any snacks at all? Also, have you ever written down everything you've eaten in a day? At least for me, the above approximation would leave me pretty darn hungry at around 9 p.m.

Aside from the crowd and renovation issues with the new limited dining option next year, our nutritional freedom will be severely restricted. Atwater always has a healthy option, and if they don't, they are always glad to provide a not-fried meal without heavy sauces upon request.

Of course, I know the reason behind all the dining changes is due to budget cuts. The College is looking to save money, but at what cost? The health of students? There have to be other ways to cut back on food spending without limiting meals to one (knowing Ross, probably fried) option. Maybe a healthy food station at both dining halls or a plain entrée next to the sauced entrée at meals?

I've been brainstorming alternatives to the declared dining changes, but haven't come up with anything spectacular, and I would love your suggestions. Please e-mail me at bbenson@middlebury.edu if you have opinions, ideas or any feedback.

Taking time off provides perspective

By Corinne Beaugard & Kaylen Baker

STAFF WRITERS

We begin our lives of schooling between the ages of two and three on our first day of preschool. Sixteen years later, we go to college for four years, then possibly to graduate school. We spend the better part of our youth passing through the motions of structured education without the opportunity to direct our own paths. Of course there is summer, which has the potential to rejuvenate and restore, but many of us want to be productive year round, using summer to build resumes and work. Following this predestined course is the perfect fit for people who thrive in the structured and demanding environment of higher education, but some reject it and choose to explore the world and themselves without such constraints.

Luckily for those of us who want to leave for a semester or more, Middlebury makes it extremely easy to do so. Our Feb program is great because it allows students, both Febs and non-Febs, to take a semester off while still being part of a particular class.

There are a considerable number of students on campus who have taken time off, which is likely due to Middlebury's lenient policy. It is possible to defer for a semester up until the day before classes start.

Cassandra Moore, a first-semester sophomore, took last semester off as well. She had been deliberating for a while and finally decided it would be for the best.

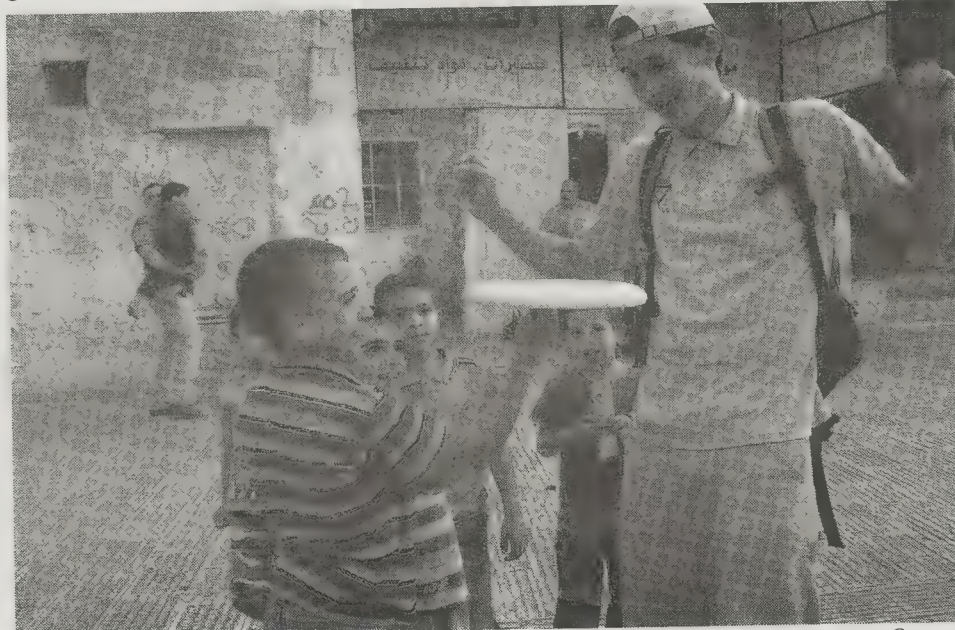
"I moved from Durango, Colo., to Olympia, Wash., in late August and lived with two friends, Mesa and Automne, in the cutest little house. And that's what I did: I just lived there. I wanted to take time off school and didn't have a plan, really, of what to do — and I didn't want to plan anything."

She also had crappy jobs, one at a religious coffee shop and another cleaning at a scummy motel, yet she enjoyed her time. Time works in a very different way when you're not in school. The day is not organized into class periods, athletic practices, lectures, and screenings. It is a lot more flexible and the days become distinguishable for reasons aside from hours in the library and meals in the dining hall. Upon reflection, Cassie noted how valuable this was for her.

"It seems strange, but it was really nice to work jobs, for a little while, that I didn't care about. It was relieving. It wouldn't hold my attention for a very long time, but for a little while. It was nice to reserve my best energy for my life outside of work."

She stayed in Oregon for the rest of her time off, working, riding her bike, and enjoying the freedom of really living. Cassie considered returning to school, not entirely convinced it would be the best decision, but she did and is not disappointed. However, she believes she may take the following semester off and possibly more in the future.

Many people here are more concerned about their graduation date, but Cassie says she'd recommend taking time off to everyone, realizing how crucial it was for her personal growth and happiness.



Nate Blumenshine has many fond memories of his various experiences from his time off.

"I think it is a bad decision, honestly, not to take time off. I think there is a reality beyond school's structure that so many people don't see for too long and I think that is sad. I think plowing through education like we do lends itself to the creation of a lifestyle that is equally fast-paced and just not humble."

Other students decide to take time off with the intent of participating in a social or political cause. Ben Wessel, currently a sophomore, plans to take next semester off to work for 1Sky, a climate advocacy group in Washington, D.C. He has worked for the organization before and felt it was so rewarding he wants to return. At 1Sky he will participate in U.S. and international policy analysis, working with existing policies, as well as proposals, that aim to influence Congress and organize the grassroots youth movement.

Ben said he decided to take time off not because he needs a break from this academic environment but because this environmental movement is so time sensitive. Waiting until graduation is not an option; too many critical decisions that will have already been made, decisions he hopes to influence. According to Wessel, taking next semester off is the best solution, for he does not want to continue investing himself half heartedly in school and this cause. By taking time off he can fully devote himself to achieving climate goals and then return to school, satisfied that he followed his calling to act.

His work with policy change will culminate with an international conference in Copenhagen, COP15 United Nations Climate Change Conference Copenhagen 2009. During this time, Ben will work with the group of young people at the conference to influence the policy makers.

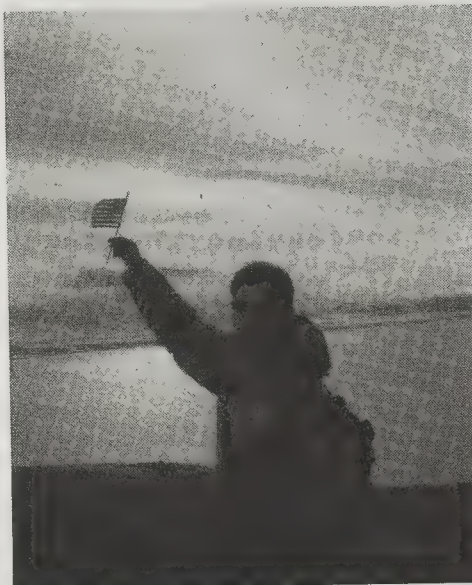
"We will call attention to the failings of negotiations through creative actions," Wessel said, "with focus on the media. We offer a policy stance that will safeguard all countries."

Ben is excited to sit at the table with the policy makers and his fellow activists this coming December to push for his climate agenda, which he hopes will be enacted.

Xian Chiang-Warren '11 went straight to college after high school like most kids do in the United States, but soon changed track. "It just became apparent to me during my first year that I wasn't getting enough out of being here academically," she explained. "I was in classes I was interested in with amazing professors, but it wasn't clicking. The timing was off."

Instead of returning for sophomore year at Middlebury, she decided to take time off and travel around South America with some friends. Originally, she expected to end up working at an animal refuge in the Amazon Basin in Bolivia, but as she traveled along, her plans changed and she found herself forging a different and spontaneous trail.

Chiang-Warren does not disapprove of formal education, but she staunchly believes that life must contain more than just theoretical classroom discussions and regurgitated principles. "There are other things that academia can't teach you, things that it alienates us from, which are equally important to our



Courtesy

Ben Wessel, an environmental advocate, plans to take a semester off next year to pursue his activist interests.

growth as human beings," she said. "What scared me was the idea of hitting age 21 or 22 and not being able to remember existing outside of these places."

When asked whether it was difficult to return to school life after her traveling, she admitted, "Yes and no. I was always going to come back — I understand that I should probably finish college, that it opens more doors than it closes, and also there's just a lot of information out there that I want to learn. Most importantly I've found amazing friends here, without a doubt the most interesting and talented groups of people that I've ever seen in one place. I wasn't going to pass up the opportunity to spend three more years with them. With all that said, it was still really hard to get on the plane back home."

"Make sure you are doing something adventurous and different than you have done before," advised Nate Blumenshine '10.5 on taking time off. Instead of continuing his sophomore year, he harvested corn on a Kansas farm to learn more about the U.S. food system and lived at a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Two years later, he left school again to learn Arabic in religiously enticing Bethlehem Palestine. "I felt the power of the divine when I saw the spot where Jesus was born and heard the call to prayer and church bells ringing in unison," he remembered.

This past fall, he worked on the Obama campaign in Reading, Pa. — this inspiration drew largely from the broadened international perspective he has gained. "[Obama's] role in improving U.S. relations with the rest of the world just by being elected is better than another candidate could have done with four years devoted towards doing the same thing," he said.

Each valuable experience taught him something — one day, while crossing the border to Jerusalem, he went through the checkpoint behind a smiling Palestinian man and his Frisbee got stuck in the x-ray machine. With instructions from the Israeli guard, he recalled, "I walked back to the other side of the machine and kind of crawled up on the conveyor belt so that I could reach into the X-ray and grab my Frisbee. Triumphant, I freed my Frisbee from its dark radioactive fate and received smiles of congratulations from both the Palestinian man and the Israeli soldier."

However, Blumenshine accepted this cordiality fully aware that his American identity was responsible. "Something was wrong here ... My American passport is like a magic port key that shields me from the questioning, searches, or palm scans that Palestinian people are subjected to," he explained. "Why am I so free in this place as a visitor when the people that live here are imprisoned?" During his stay he met many people working on nonviolent resistance to Israeli occupation policies and also received smiles from Israeli guards. "I have to say, this is not really the experience I expected, but I would not change it for the world."

Courtesy

UC prof shares the benefits of parasites

By Johanna Interian
STAFF WRITER

As part of the Saul Seminar Series, Dr. Marlene Zuk, professor of biology at University of California - Riverside, led a lecture on Thurs., April 23 in McCardell Bicentennial Hall titled "Why Doctors Need Darwin." Zuk provided an evolutionary perspective for looking at parasites that was not lacking in comic relief.

"I really like her speaking style; she has a very accessible lecturing style and can explain a concept in 20 minutes that usually takes longer to understand," said Associate Professor of Biology Helen Young, who taught a first-year seminar called "Darwinian Medicine" in fall 2007.

The lecture was largely based on her recent book, "Riddled with Life: Friendly Worms, Ladybug Sex, and the Parasites That Make Us Who We Are," which she calls "a happy book about disease" that runs counter to other more "militaristic views" toward parasites.

Instead of looking at them as disease-causing pathogens, Zuk proposed that we see parasites as a natural part of our biological makeup. Since humans have coevolved in an environment with pathogens and disease-causing agents, Zuk claimed that completely removing them could have detrimental effects.

"I'm not suggesting that we should seek to be sick, but what if it's a force that we could learn to live with — like gravity?" said Zuk. "Gravity makes things fall and break, our skin wrinkly and our body parts saggy ... but we learn to live with it."

Zuk made a clever comparison between parasites and family — we can't choose them and some are luckier than others, but we are all nonetheless influenced by them.

Zuk suggested that certain ailments today — such as obesity and hypertension — are a result of the mismatch between our current and ancestral environments. Our "old genes" are not equipped to handle our modern lifestyle, characterized by technology and computers.

An example of our current environment being at odds with our ancestral genes is type II diabetes — a disease that affects at least 150 million people per year and represents \$174 billion in annual healthcare costs. Zuk believes that this statistic is an underestimation, as cases in developing countries are largely



Skeletons of the

Courtesy

Darwin's theory of evolution is still being applied to scientific research today.

unaccounted for.

While diabetes cases tend to occur in urban areas, the frequency of cases in Europe is substantially low. This inconsistency, explained Zuk, is attributed to the thrifty genotype hypothesis, which states that people who have genes that utilize sugar efficiently lose weight slowly and thus have an advantage in times of famine.

Famines used to be common in Europe, so those without thrifty genes died out. Typically, the people who emigrated from Europe were of lower social class, and the ones that

Will Cunningham '10. "It was a clear and funny way of looking at how people are not really paying attention to what they're doing."

According to the hygiene hypothesis, if your environment lacks immune stimuli, such as bacteria and antitoxins, you are at an increased risk of developing certain conditions such as allergies, asthma and eczema.

"If you take away these things," said Zuk, "you end up with some unforeseen circumstances."

To illustrate this point, Zuk referenced the work of Dr. Joel Weinstock, who she calls "a worm enthusiast." His study involved an evolutionary approach to Crohn's disease.

Dr. Weinstock saw the illness not as a result of what has been acquired, but rather of what has been

lost: common intestinal worms. He treated patients with Crohn's disease by giving them pig whipworm eggs to ingest. After six months of treatment, approximately 75 percent of the patients showed remission.

"It's very countercultural to look at it from an evolutionary perspective," said Tieran Meyer '11. "The idea of intentionally putting worms in your body sounds bad, but having Crohn's disease is worse."

Zuk explained that taking an evolutionary approach could help us learn which children are more susceptible to certain conditions and allow for treatment intervention at an early age.

"If we view pathogens not only as our enemy, then we can understand better how to treat certain ailments in modern society," said Zuk.

stayed evolved with efficient genes. Those Europeans that stayed in their home countries are ancestrally less likely to develop diabetes.

"The problem is that when ample food is always available, as is the case here, then those same genes predispose you to hyperglycemia and, potentially, type II diabetes," Zuk said.

She also discussed how the mentality of completely eradicating bacteria from our bodies is flawed and parasite cleansing can actually do more harm than good in some cases. A common issue related to this is overmedication.

"There is not a demonstrated effect of antibiotics to heal ear infections in children," said Zuk. Nonetheless, parents demand antibiotics for them anyway and doctors feel obliged to comply.

"It's a very interesting perspective on something that I've previously heard," said

The idea of intentionally putting worms in your body sounds bad, but having Crohn's disease is worse.

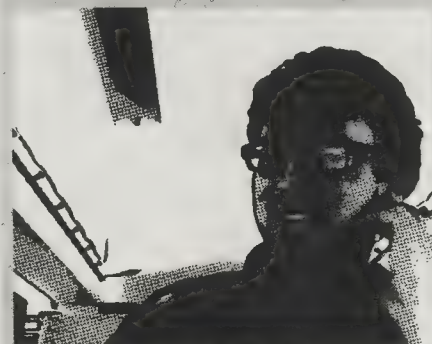


Meaghan Brown

HAPPY EARTH DAY!

Earth Day, a holiday tradition begun in 1970 and celebrated by many college campuses and communities with awareness events or environmental cleanups, was greeted warmly by the College. Sunday Night Group made a cake decorated with a cartographically accurate map of the world to celebrate the national holiday on Wed., April 22 in McCardell Bicentennial Hall.

MiddSexGuy



by AJ Meyer

This will be my last column as MiddSexGuy. It's kind of a brutal name, but I was told there was going to be a MiddSexGirl when I started writing in the fall. She backed out when she heard I was her counterpart. It's been an experience and I'm not sure whether I can say it was a good one. But, 60 years from now, I will be able to tell my many grandchildren that I used to write articles about the consumption of sperm and using food as a lubricant. I already feel bad for whom-ever winds up with me. Now, when you Google "A.J. Meyer" and "Middlebury," you get stats of my penalty minutes and columns about some nasty stuff. I could definitely clean my Internet image up a bit. The column was actually just a ploy to find an internship this summer, but the only employers that have returned my calls are Condomania and <http://www.youporn.com> (both internships are unpaid).

I started writing the column because I thought it could be fun. I was hoping people would write me and we could get some sort of dialogue going about sex and everything that comes with it. We could have had a sexual horror story week where people wrote in about that time when a chair fell on their erection right before sex or a table collapsed mid-orgasm. We could have had a week where you told me about your kinks and fetishes or about your pet peeves in bed. That didn't really happen, and it was definitely tough to write original columns every week on a new topic. But, what's done is done.

In the end, I love women. I love their legs, breasts, skin; I love everything about women. They are so much better-looking than us guys. I also love sex. Good sex is something that makes life so much better. It is so simple and so natural, and we all have the capacity to do it. I wish we were all less worried about the crap that small schools like this make us worry about and just got it on. Sex should not be challenging and there should be more of it here on campus. Also — and I know this is not always the case — but why do men usually do the pursuing here? Could a girl ask a guy she doesn't know to buy her a drink at the bar? Ladies, in the game of seduction, you have the upper hand, because the truth is — as I'm sure many of you know — we don't know what the hell is going on. We're pawns in the game.

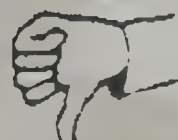
One of my favorite stories in relation to the column is from after the first week. I wrote a column titled, "Let's get it on" and used a picture of Marvin Gaye for the week. Two first-year girls were walking to the library and one of them pointed to the picture and said, "I've haven't seen him around campus." I got a kick out of that. But, thank you for reading and for thinking that I might possibly be Marvin Gaye. I am not. I will wrap this up.

People, sex is great. Be creative, be daring and be vulnerable. Life is too short not to try whatever you might want to try. Support gay rights — go Vermont! Try not to worry about all the little things, because they are little things that you won't remember in five years' time. If you have read and enjoyed the column, thank you. I appreciate it. My name is A.J. Meyer. I am MiddSexGuy.

winners



&



losers

New York schoolchildren

A few freak outbreaks of a new strand of the flu and school gets canceled for weeks!

Mystery package

Only at Middlebury would an unidentified object from a foreign country shipped to the Mail Center cause little more concern than "who will claim it?"

Tan lines

Bikinis by day and sundresses by night — Middlebury women are proud that they have finally seen the sun.

Hypochondriacs

After reading the Health Center's nondescript e-mail about the disease's symptoms, the majority of over-worked Midd-kids appear to have swine flu.

All-campus e-mails

Too bad we were blocked from "replying all" to make another request for milk ...

Panty lines

Sundresses — yes.
V.P.L. — no, no, no.

**news.
local news.
opinions.
features.
arts.
sports.**



it's all **online.**

visit
middleburycampus.com
*or go/***thecampus**
today to discuss articles
and vote in the
weekly poll.

GET READY FOR...



ARTICLE BY DANA WALTERS

"The Europeans" defies description. Even the actors struggled to find the right words to encapsulate Howard Barker's play, which opens in Seeler Studio Theatre on April 30. Remarks about "art," "catastrophe," "morality" and "love" flew around backstage, but no single term was all-encompassing. While "The Europeans" resists simplification, the difficulty in expressing the play succinctly could never match the arduous task of the production itself. However, as one of the leading women, Lauren Fondren '09 said, "It's always a joy to work on a challenge."

"The Europeans" follows the aftermath of the Viennese siege of 1684 and the destructive toll that battle exacts upon humanity. Historical figures such as King Leopold of Austria (played by Mathew Nakitare '10) and his military hero Starhemberg (Will Damron '09) mix with commoners that have been devastated by the fighting. One such refugee, Katrin (Veracity Butcher '09), has endured enormous physical damage — rape and disfigurement — at the hands of the Turks, but this is nothing in comparison with the emotional havoc she suffers as a result. Meanwhile, her sister Susannah (Fondren) harbors a consuming ardor for a priest whose own morality is questionable.

These characters walk in and out of each other's worlds, conflicting and colliding with each other and their own humanity and trauma. "It's about people who strive to survive war and its aftermath," said Professor of Theatre Richard Romagnoli, the play's director. "They're smart, passionate, articulate, resourceful, angry and unsentimental. Their pain and anger are part of their identity, which they will never wash in reconciliation." Butcher added that within each character resides an inherent "self-centeredness" that each actor displays with unbridled emotion.

A synopsis barely scratches the surface of the play. War, art, heroism, pain, madness and love are just a few of the motifs the characters grapple with. Romagnoli said of the playwright, "His plays deal with big ideas: They're unapologetically clamorous. I love Howard's work because it asks more of me as a director and as an audience than most other plays I've read. I always enjoy the struggle."

These big ideas are most always expressed in dozens of words throughout the drama; however, the debates that engulf the work fall second to the uninhibited feeling threading itself through the entire narrative, most keenly visible in the characters' desperation. This passion is the story that most struggle to describe. If one takes a mere moment to piece together the plot from the words and not the emotion, then the play's true focus will have fallen by the wayside. To miss these palpable sensations is to miss everything.

Despite the drama's difficulty, Jimmy Wong '09, who plays a painter following King Leopold around, said, "It's kind of fun to feel entirely lost at the beginning." Fondren

seconded that, saying, "It's been interesting because Richard [Romagnoli] came into it telling us, 'I don't know anymore than you do.' It's been a collaborative effort from the start." Romagnoli himself stated that his obsession with Barker began early in his career, but he waited to put on one of the pieces after the theatre department chair advised against it, and Romagnoli understands now why it was necessary. Seventeen years later, Middlebury has the grand opportunity to see the result of his years of pining — a delay that has proven fruitful and worthwhile.

The play's appeal, furthermore, surfaces along with the controversy of its conception. Rejected during the 1980s by the Royal Shakespeare Company, "The Europeans" is not without its share of detractors, but Butcher was quick to come to its defense. "It's gratuitous. It's shocking. It's appalling. There's all these gross things that happen on stage, but they're all purely absurd and not *supposed* to make sense," she explained. Within a single scene, for example, the audience is privy to one character's overwhelming sexual yearning, a view of a decapitated head and another character's vomiting reaction. Not many plays could enfold such disparate sequences within a few minutes, but as Fondren explained, "It's a kind of a play about not making things comfortable." If she is correct, though, the awkwardness is uncompromisingly pleasurable, in the way that wrestling with complex issues creates both exhaustion and a sense of accomplishment. The palpable passion onstage reaches out to the audience in such a manner that the drama becomes participatory, the pain onstage reflected in the audience's anticipatory held breath.

With the promise of an enjoyable distress, therefore, "The Europeans" beckons an audience to watch its madness unfold. Watching the play and performing it is both a struggle and a joy for all. Indeed, Romagnoli and many of those involved all sought seemingly opposing adjectives when expressing details of the drama and its production. The same effect has its way with the viewer, confounding and mesmerizing at the same time. The script itself is not enough to create this tone, and reading it does not produce anything close to the same reaction as seeing it live on stage. While all plays are ultimately meant for a speaker's mouth, this one in particular only finds its resonance when truly fervent actors like the ones in this production speak their lines. While Fondren said, "It's about staying in the fire," merely referring to the plight of the characters within the drama, the same sentence can be used to illustrate watching the play itself. And while it might be a tad masochistic, getting burned can also be exhilarating.

Directed by Richard Romagnoli, "The Europeans" will play in Seeler Studio Theatre on April 30 at 8 p.m., May 1 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and May 2 at 8 p.m.

editors' picks

30

Nothin' Like a Dame
Hepburn Zoo
9 p.m.

The senior work of Judith Dry '09 recounts the transgender ventures of one Judy Barbra who seeks to rejuvenate the cabaret. The production has three more performances, Friday, April 1 (at 9 and 11 p.m.) and a finale April 2 at 9 p.m.

01

Spring Dance Concert
MCFA
8 p.m.

The Department of Theatre and Dance sponsors a slate of new dance performances by faculty and guest dancers, including a Newcomers' Piece choreographed by Artist-in-Residence Tiffany Rhynard.

01

The Sound Investment
MCFA
8 p.m.

Middlebury's finest jazz musicians come together under Director of Jazz Activities Dick Forman for a concert that celebrates the rich, varied sounds of jazz.

02

Spring Choral Concert
MCFA
8 p.m.

The Women's Glee Club, Men's Glee Club and College Choir serenade the audience with selections of Brahms, Vivaldi and folk music.



for the record by Alex Blair

"I've got the blood of the land in my voice," the soon-to-be 68-year-old Bob Dylan growls on a cut off his new album, "Together Through Life." His famous croon (infamous for some) has never sounded more weathered, but that worn-out, earthy tone lends itself beautifully to a collection of songs that sound like they were created somewhere between a small town in Mexico and a café in Paris. "The land" is everywhere on this rustic LP, but, unlike in his two previous albums, America is not the sole focus of his musings. This time around, Dylan's words and music possess a much more universal appeal as he ponders the world at large and one of our most ubiquitous emotions: love. With the help of his traveling band and an unlikely companion (an accordion), Dylan takes us on a journey through life that is often joyful, sometimes forlorn, and always rewarding.

The first sounds of "Beyond Here Lies Nothin'," the album's opening track, are as American as they come. A bluesy guitar riff accompanied by pounding drum fills remind us of the Dylan on his two previous masterpieces, 2001's "Love and Theft" and 2006's "Modern Times." But then, unexpectedly, David Hidalgo (of Los Lobos fame) blasts his accordion through the landscape, transforming this blues-rock jam into a woozy, south-of-the-border romp. Dylan's voice, startling at first, enters the song in a fury of romantic sentiment: "Oh well I love you pretty baby/ You're the only love I've ever known/ Just as long as you stay with me/ The whole world is my throne." These words almost seem too genuine for Dylan, who in recent years has taken a sardonic tone to his "love" songs. But "Beyond Here Lies Nothin'" proves to be the real thing as he continues to sing to his girl: "Don't know what I'd do without it/ This love that we call ours." The romance numbers keep coming with "This Dream of You," which feels like it should be played on an evening walk to the Eiffel Tower or a gondola ride in Venice. Hidalgo's accordion is all over this track as Dylan gently croons "All I have is this dream of you/ That keeps me living on." The mandolin ballad "Life is Hard" takes a more lovesick approach, as Dylan comes to grips with the difficulties of his post-relationship life. This song represents the emotional core of the album, for Dylan's voice is so frail and emotional that the piece becomes quite moving. And if his singing doesn't get you, that damn accordion will certainly hit the spot.

By now you're probably thinking that Bob Dylan has gone soft. That biting wit and devilish charm that graced his last two LPs is definitely pushed to the side on "Together Through Life," but that's not to say that the old troubadour has lost his gift for cutting social commentary. The album's final track, "It's All Good," drips with irony as Dylan uses the chorus to sarcastically proclaim that the world is fine. Only in the song's verses does he reveal his anger as he shoots down lying politicians, cheating wives and bloody killers. This is Dylan's harshest condemnation of modern society since 1989's "Political World."

Of the three masterpiece studio albums Dylan has released this decade, "Together Through Life" will be remembered as his most gentle and passionate. Gone is the laid back, folksy feel of "Love and Theft" and the driving rock of "Modern Times." This time around, Dylan focuses his sound and lyrics on love. If words like "Life is for love" from the song "I Feel A Change Comin' On" fail to convince you that Bob Dylan has a bit of a romantic side, then that ever-present accordion certainly will.

"Vagina Monologues" inspires moans of delight

By Nathan Kloczko
STAFF WRITER

I had always thought that those late-night cries of "I should be studying!" were just the frustrated side-effects of procrastination. "The Vagina Monologues" certainly corrected my perception of that. Under the guidance of directors Jeanine Buzali '09 and Samantha Collier '09 and producer Aki Ito '09, 33 women, young and old, came together in performance to talk about that place more legendary than the lost city of El Dorado — the vagina.

Sitting within a Bermuda triangle of speakers last Friday afternoon on the curb of Hepburn, the atmosphere could not have been more pleasant. Evacuation Plan and Ava & the Gardeners provided some excellent pre-show music, serenading audience members as they toted blanket and towel across the grass. The audience, undoubtedly feeling the spring fever, gave a warm welcome to the actresses as they took their places. And thus the afternoon began: "Welcome to this year's Vagina Day." V-Day, started by "Vagina Monologues" playwright Eve Ensler '75, is a call to stop violence against women. Yearly, women across the world produce benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" and other plays to both raise awareness about feminine brutality and celebrate female sexuality. In addition to encouraging performances, the V-Day foundation works to provide shelters, promote awareness and sponsor workshops.

"The Vagina Monologues" is a series of interviews with women of all ages and ethnicities, asking them about the highest taboo, their own "down-theres." The responses range from poetic stories of rebirth to shocking slaps of reality to rants about tampons. But thoughtout it is a communal respect for the vagina, the things it has gone through, and the things it has yet to go through. Interspersed through the play are a number of interesting vagina facts, offering statistics concerning rape, mutilation and

sensitivity, and the fact that vibrators are illegal to sell in a number of states. I think we are all glad that Vermont has no laws about that. Why inhibit pleasure?

What captured my attention most throughout the play was the powerful use of imagery. No matter who was speaking, each actress had her own image of the vagina, and found her own language to express it. Whether it was a "flower, an eccentric tulip, the center acute and deep" or an "archeological tunnel," the language led the mind through a smörgåsbord of ideas and feelings. "My vagina was my village" especially captured this, weaving together heart-wrenching contrasts of war and a pastoral scene.

The acting, for the most part, certainly helped to bring out this imagery. The cast brought ardor to every scene, showing off their weeks of practice. They held no inhi-

bitions about the topic or the performance, a dutiful display of their enthusiasm for female sexuality. Personally, I wonder what unknowing passersby thought when the cast was practicing their surprise triple orgasm moan, "When Harry Met Sally"-style. The energy of the actresses was profound, especially when the cast acted as one, twisting and moving to try and see themselves, or listing things their vaginas would wear or say.

It is safe to say that I have never heard the word *vagina*, or any of its spin-offs, pronounced so many times in an hour and a half. But each time it was said, it carried with it something more than just a name for a body part. It carried passion, memory, love, hate and pleasure. It carried a plea to be noticed and cared for, not thrown into the cellar. So, in closing, I can ask only this: Have you given your vagina attention recently?



Jessica Appelson

A cast of Middlebury students gave a benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues" on Friday, April 24, under the direction of Jeanine Buzali '09 and Samantha Collier '09.

Spotlight on... Ellen Flanagan '09



Ellen Flanagan '09 was honored this year as the recipient of the Joyce and Alan Beucher 2009 Concerto Competition, and she performed the first movement of the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the College Orchestra last Friday, April 24. Andrew Throdahl sat down with Flanagan to discuss her playing.

The Campus: How did you start playing the violin and who all have you studied with?

Ellen Flanagan: I think the main reason I started studying music was because I was jealous of my older brother. I watched him take lessons for three or four years before my mother allowed me to hold the instrument. She told me she would fund my violin lessons once I learned how to read, so I began playing when I was 6. Fourteen years later, I have studied with many different teachers. At Middlebury, all of us violin students are lucky enough to study with Katherine Winterstein, one of the most bizarre but wonderfully encouraging teachers I have had.

TC: What's your favorite type of music to play?

EF: String quartets.

TC: Is classical music the only music you've played on the violin?

EF: I've tried a few times to learn some fiddle/bluegrass music but wasn't the best at it. I always tell people I can play that one song "Wagon Wheel" by Old Crow Medicine Show. When I studied abroad last year in Argentina, I met a tango band who let me perform with them a few times. Tango music is really beautiful and more similar to classical playing, so it was easier for me to pick up. I also really love gypsy swing, with guitar, upright bass and violin, but I'm afraid to improvise so I haven't been able to get after it.

TC: Did going abroad to Argentina and playing tango there inspire your classical playing?

EF: I think maybe it did. Tango music, in order to be convincing, requires a lot of passion and expressive timing, which is definitely applicable in classical pieces.

TC: Do you have any worst/favorite concert memories at Middlebury?

EF: I have loved performing chamber music over the past few years with you, Shelsey Weinstein, and Sonia Hsieh. Soloing with the orchestra this past weekend, however, was a rare opportunity and definitely one of the most exciting performing experiences I have ever had.

TC: How did you decide to play the Sibelius concerto for the concerto competition?

EF: You suggested I play it and I have to do everything you say, including do this interview.

TC: Were you nervous for the competition? And if so, how do you deal with anxiety?

EF: I was pretty nervous but I made sure to stay warmed up, playing through the difficult passages until it was my turn.

TC: How is playing in the orchestra different from playing with the orchestra? Did it change the way you performed the Sibelius?

EF: I sit down while playing in the orchestra and stand up while playing with the orchestra. I probably should have thought about wearing more comfortable shoes.

TC: What are your musical plans for the future? Will you keep playing the Sibelius?

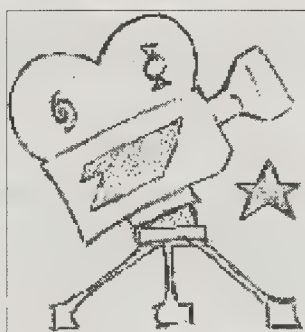
EF: I hope to keep studying the violin and maybe go to grad school for music performance. I'll definitely keep playing the Sibelius — it's one of the best violin concertos and I have only learned the first movement so far.

— Andrew Throdahl, Arts Editor



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

Flanagan won the 2009 Alan and Joyce Beucher Concerto Competition and soloed with the College Orchestra on April 24.



THE REEL CRITIC

by Jason Gutierrez

MOVIE | *Killer of Sheep*
DIRECTOR | Charles Burnett
STARRING | Henry G. Sanders, Kaycee Moore, Charles Bracy

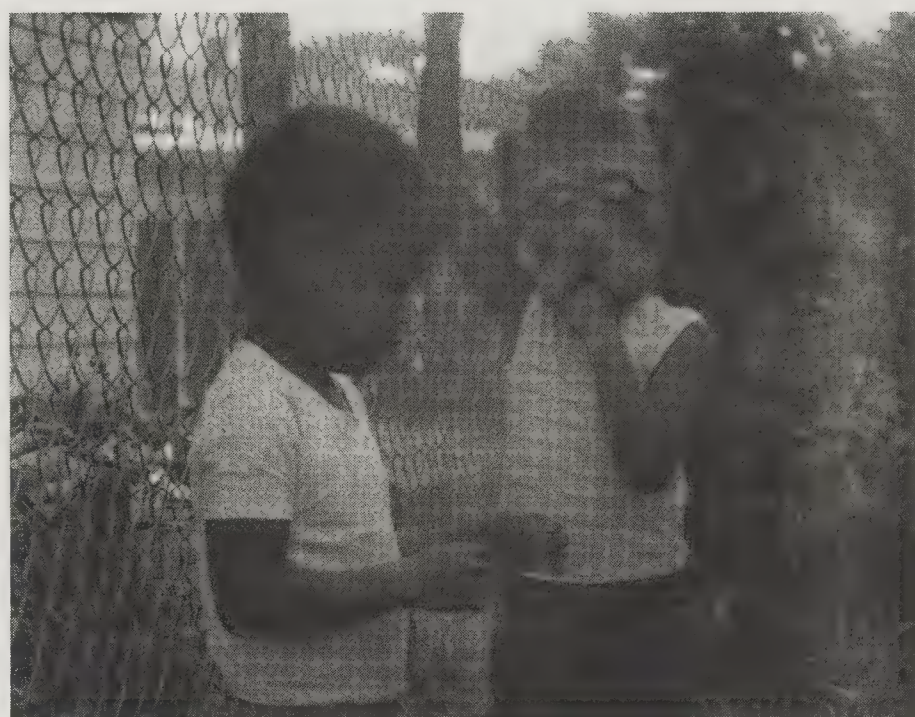
As a film student and cinephile I can say without hesitation that, in my opinion, some of the best and most interesting films made come from American independent cinema. I can also say without hesitation that American independent cinema is changing, and not for the better.

American independent cinema has a long and rich tradition dating back to the very beginning of film. Filmmakers who worked in opposition to the Edison Trust, the founding of United Artists by Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks, and avant-garde filmmakers of the late 1930s through the 1950s (see Maya Daren and Alexander Hamid's 1943 film "Meshes of the Afternoon") are just a few examples of filmmakers' attempts to break out of the industrial apparatus that had been established by major Hollywood film studios. However, the creation and increased popularization of the Sundance Institute along with other independent film centers and festivals has created an environment wherein most of the "independent" cinema being produced today isn't really independent. Many films have the backing of major studio subsid-

aries, cost millions of dollars to produce, and have big name stars attached. This, in itself, is not a problem. What is a problem, however, is the increased homogenization of independent cinema.

I was going to review a film that is running in town this week, "Sunshine Cleaning." It is a film that is advertised as being from the producers of "Little Miss Sunshine," and, although I have no experience of the film beyond watching the trailer, it strikes me as indicative of the larger trend of homogenization of independent cinema. Many pseudo-independent films have been released over the past few years ("Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist," "Smart People," "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Juno" come to mind) all coming across like Frankenstein's monster films: lumbering, unsubtle messes patched together from the vibrant pieces of other independent films. In an effort to escape Hollywood formula, independent cinema has created its own formula (handheld cameras, falsely quirky characters, an easy-to-swallow macabre or overwhelming situation, forced interpersonal tension and a feel-good ending), and the aforementioned films come across as pastiches of both Hollywood and independent filmmaking. This is what passes for American independent cinema.

Several years ago, one of the lost gems of American independent cinema finally got its comeuppance, a theatrical run, and a DVD release to boot. The film was Charles Burnett's "Killer of Sheep." Made over a year's worth of consecutive weekends from 1972 to 1973 for \$10,000, "Killer of Sheep" is everything that independent cinema should be. It is a quiet film that is driven by the intensely realistic portrait it paints of a working man in the Watts district of Los Angeles, not plot. In fact, there is no plot to speak of, just a series of vignettes showcasing the life of slaughterhouse worker Stan (played by Henry Gale Sanders) and his family (an unnamed wife and two small children). Stan dreams of bigger and better things, but cannot seem to break free of the monotony of his day to day life. The ensu-



Courtesy

ing ennui affects his relationship with his family, friends and the world around him. Where modern independent film would rush to throw this character into some kind of contrived plotline, Burnett knows well enough to simply observe his character. His focus is on shot composition and realism, not forced quiriness or stupidly stylized dialogue. In one of the more remarkable scenes I can think of, Burnett simply allows his camera to observe Stan telling one of his friends how the feel of a warm cup of tea reminds him of making love. The confession, and the look of pain in Stan's eyes once his confession is derided by his friend, are simply remarkable.

What makes this film so incredible is to consider the period in which Burnett was making his film. An African-American filmmaker and cast working in the early to mid-1970s might be expected to make a Blaxploitation film like "Shaft" or "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," but instead Burnett chose to create an austere portrait of a working class African-American fam-

ily in a poor section of Los Angeles. Not exactly a way to fame and fortune.

To compare Burnett's work in "Killer of Sheep" to other films or filmmakers would be to make comparisons to the top tier of filmmakers. Strains of Kubrick, De Sica, Ozu, and Cassavettes are all apparent in "Killer of Sheep," but all are seen through the lens of both an African-American filmmaker and an independent filmmaker. Burnett was one of, if not the most important, African-American filmmaker working until Spike Lee came onto the scene in the mid-1980s (and I would argue even after Lee's emergence), and his work with "Killer of Sheep" should ensure him a place among the best independent filmmakers of all time, and his film a place in the canon (if you buy into things like that). With so much mediocre fare passing as independent film, it's worthwhile to look back and see what independent film really looks like, and there are few films better than "Killer of Sheep" to offer us a reminder.

ENHANCE OR ADVANCE YOUR DEGREE WITH UVM

In today's competitive professional world, education is a key factor in earnings potential. Census data show that adults with an advance degree command 50% more than an employee with a bachelor's degree alone.*

Prepare for your master's degree at the University of Vermont:

Prepare for a Master's of Accountancy, Master's of Public Administration, and Master's of Business Administration, or a graduate degree in medicine or health.

Enhance your bachelor's degree:

Pair your business degree with a Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Management to enter the healthcare industry.

"Green" your degree with a Certificate of Graduate Study in Ecological Economics to enter the sustainability industry.

Launch your own business with a social or environmental mission by taking the Social Entrepreneurship course in summer.

*The data are from the 2005 Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), which was conducted from February through April 2005 at about 100,000 addresses.



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT
CONTINUING EDUCATION

your doorway to academic excellence

learn.uvm.edu/middlebury

A M E R I C A N
FLATBREAD

at the MARBLE WORKS

will be

ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

Fri, May 22 & Sat, May 23

(MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE GRADUATION)

Walk-ins accommodated, as usual!

Contact Danielle for reservations:
danielle@americanflatbread.com or 388-3300

AMERICANFLATBREAD.COM

Need a

DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Call Rodney at Arrive Alive 388-7281
 349-9038(cell) or email: rodneyclaire@yahoo.com

Men's lacrosse dispatches Jeffs in playoff opener

Eight different Panthers score as team prepares for faceoff with Wesleyan

By Jeb Burchenal

STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury men's lacrosse team clinched the top seed in the NESCAC tournament two weekends ago, but they still had their work cut out for them this past weekend. The Panthers, ranked third nationally, were still searching for their first truly dominant 60-minute performance of the year to make a statement to the Division III lacrosse world.

On Fri., April 24, the Panthers hosted Williams for the first time since the Ephs unceremoniously dethroned Middlebury at home in last year's NESCAC tournament. As Williams' diminutive goalie Michael Gerbush started to rack up impressive saves in the first half, the crowd started to get antsy.

Maeve McGilloway '10, a Middlebury fan hailing from the same high school as Gerbush, was quick to point out that "what

run with goals on back-to-back drives. It was a clear signal that the other Panther offensive players, while led by Mike Stone '09, felt a sense of accountability for the poor start. Stone, Matt Ferrer '09 and Pete Smith '10 each added two goals apiece during the fourth quarter to bring the game to a 10-10 tie.

After allowing Williams to climb back on top, Matt Rayner '12, a starting close defender, took the ball coast-to-coast to tie the game and really get the crowd going for the tight finish. Skyler Hopkins '09 and Petty each scored once more to create the 13-11 lead and allow the Panthers to drain the last four minutes of clock.

It was the type of rush that needed to be extended into their NESCAC quarterfinal match with Amherst on Sunday. While rowdy, unknowledgeable Amherst parents, questionable officiating and overcast weather

Middlebury shots out of the cage. Accounting for goals from Dave Hild '11 and faceoff specialist Dave Campbell '09, Amherst wound up on the wrong side of a performance that has been a season in the making.

"Sunday's game was a great example of Middlebury lacrosse," said Schopp. "We came out strong, did not let up, and took it to Amherst for four quarters. It was great to see all of the seniors and younger guys get in."

The defense played an outstanding game as well. Led by Schopp and Mike Quinn '09, the defense showed a physical side that has been dormant, epitomized by slides that came quick and with the body. Pete Britt '09 had a stellar performance in the cage and was subbed for the first time during the season.

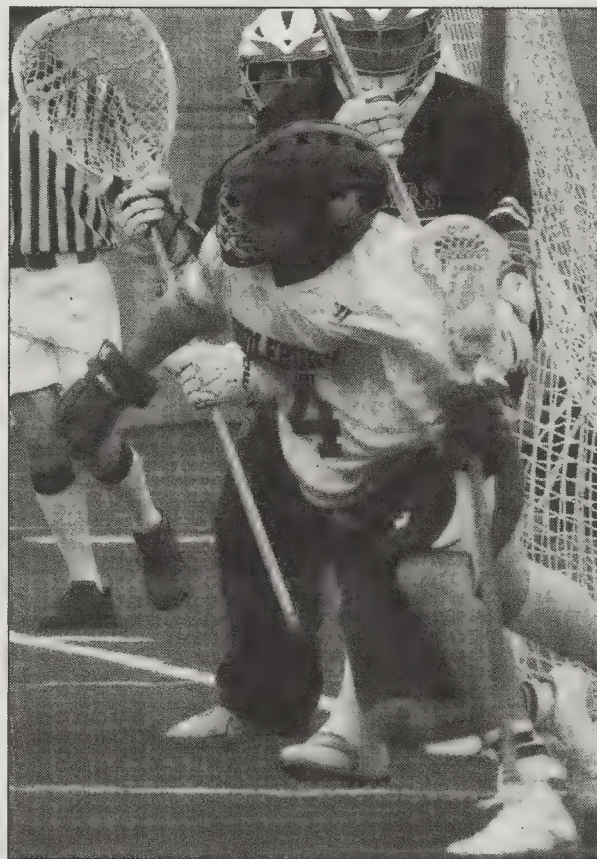
Overall, the second half of the Williams game and the trouncing the Panthers delivered to the Lord Jeffs showed that the team is putting it all together when it counts.

This week, the squad prepares to face Wesleyan for the second time this season — after the first Cardinal-Panther matchup this season ended in Middlebury's unexpected defeat, the men are eager to avenge their loss and prove their mettle on the turf.

Despite the high stakes, "we are preparing for Wesleyan like every other game," added Schopp. "We're work-

ing hard in practice and getting focused on putting everything together come game day. The only difference is, the offense will be practicing to face a zone defense rather than a man-to-man [defense]."

With the fans at home cheering on the Panthers this Saturday, the team just might be in for the big win Middlebury has been waiting for.



Grace Duggan, Photo Editor

Mike Stone '09 fights off a parliament of Lord Jeffs in the Panthers' NESCAC quarterfinal win over Amherst.

We came out strong, did not let up, and took it to Amherst for four quarters.

—Charlie Schopp '10

he lacks in size, he has always made up for in effort." Trailing 6-2 at halftime, the Panthers knew they could not afford to come out flat in the second half or the Ephs could run away with it.

The message did not sink in until the deficit had grown to 8-2 early in the second quarter, but it could not have come at a more perfect moment. Tom Petty '09 started the

threatened to ruin the affair, the Panthers finally put together what Charlie Schopp '10 called their "first complete, four-quarter game of the year."

The offensive core of Stone, Smith, Petty, Ferrer, Hopkins and Chris Teves '10 proved too powerful for the Amherst defense, even while their goalie and captain, senior Matt Pietroforte, managed to keep 42 of the 58

ADVERTISE WITH

The Middlebury
Campus Publications

LOG ONTO

www.middleburycampus.com

FOR RATE SHEETS

Women's rugby roster rucks against rape

By Tommy Mayell
STAFF WRITER

Women's rugby emerged from a weekend of physical play with a 0-0 tie against UVM and a 48-0 blowout win against Green Mountain College. The D-III Panthers played out of division in both games, first struggling to a tie against D-II UVM and then crushing D-IV Green Mountain. The Ruggers Against Rape tournament is an annual tournament organized by the UVM rugby team to raise money for the Women's Rape Crisis Center in Burlington. All proceeds went to the center.

Middlebury's first game was a tactical battle, as both teams kicked well to stay out of trouble. Tactical kicking from Evan Pagano '12 and Rachel Korschun '09 kept UVM's offense at bay. "It was a forward-oriented game, and a good, hard-hitting game," said Korschun.

Middlebury's strong defense stopped the Catamounts repeatedly, but the Catamounts did the same to the Panthers. Despite offensive chances on both ends of the field, both teams were ultimately unable to capitalize and the final score remained deadlocked at zero. Still, the Panthers gained valuable experience against a quality D-II team. "We were

expecting a good game," said team president Alice Ford '09. "We didn't win, but it felt like a good game."

Middlebury's offense exploded in its second game as the women faced a less experienced Green Mountain College team. Among the Panther scorers were Ann McGrain '09 with four, Emma Lennon '11 with two, Avery Rain '11 with one and Emma Burke '12 with one. "We were able to score well, but also work on new things," said Ford. "We were able to work on our set pieces."

As evident from the variety of scorers, the Panthers play a teamwork intensive game. "There's not really one leader on the team," said Ford. "We come together as a cohesive unit. We listen to each other's constructive criticisms."

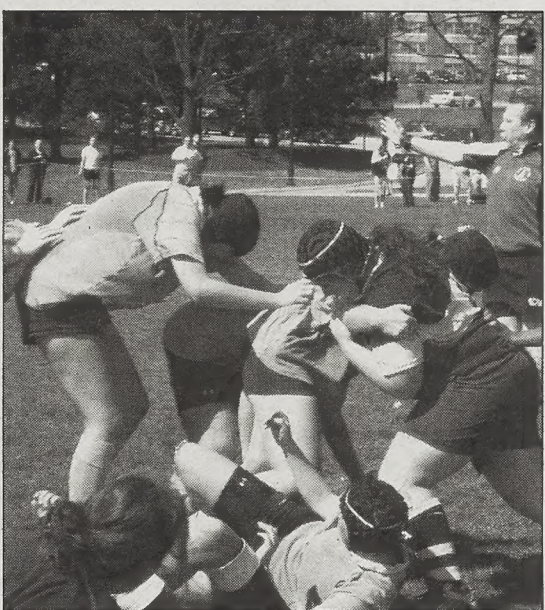
Next week, the Panthers will need both the defensive intensity they demonstrated against UVM and the potent offense they exhibited against Green Mountain College, as they prepare to face a talented Dartmouth team in their final game of the season. "We have made a lot of progress," said Ford. "It will be great to see how we've come together."

Part of that team unity has developed this year, thanks to the team's weekly Grille

Delivery service, which they plan on continuing next fall. Rather than adhering to assigned shifts, the rugby women count on each other to sign up. "People realize if they don't pull their end, it puts that trust relationship in jeopardy. All the girls are really good about showing up and doing it," said Ford.


That unity has been a long time in the making. The Panthers endured a difficult finish to their fall season. Middlebury lost in the New England championship game, leaving them one win away from qualifying for the national tournament in the spring. The Ruggers Against Rape tournament, while not declaring an official winner, left the Panthers satisfied with both their performance and their fundraising. "It's always good when you're playing a female sport to identify with female problems," said Ford.

After the Panthers conclude their competitive season against Dartmouth this weekend, they will hold their annual Blue and White game. The team splits up and some former players even make the trek




Ruggers turned out in large numbers to join the fight against rape this past weekend up at UVM. The Panthers tied the host school with a score of 0-0.

back to Middlebury to take part in the competition. It just goes to show: unity lasts more than four years.



PANTHER SCOREBOARD





Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
4/24 4/25 4/25	Men's baseball	Hamilton	4-3 W 9-7 L 8-6 W	Erich Enns '10 is named NESCAC Player of the Week after going 8-for-16 on the week with two homers, including a grand slam.
4/18	Softball	Lyndon State	9-0 W 7-0 W	Women finish their season strong and propel their record above .500 to 17-15 on the season.
4/25 4/26	Men's tennis	Williams Amherst	8-1 W 5-4 W	Sixth-ranked Panthers go undefeated in NESCAC play with a close win over fifth-place Amherst.
4/25	Women's track & field	NESCAC	2nd place	The women's squad records a respectable second place finish in NESCACs. Four athletes qualified for NCAAAs in the meet.
4/26	Men's lacrosse	Amherst	16-7 W	Mike Stone '09 and David Hild '11 tally three goals apiece in this NESCAC slaughter.



BY THE NUMBERS

6	Number of RBIs knocked in by Erich Enns '10 — on a grand slam followed by a two-run jack — in the final game of the baseball team's season.
9	Margin of victory for the men's lacrosse team in their convincing 16-7 NESCAC quarterfinal win over Amherst.
14	Margin of victory for the women's lacrosse team in their NESCAC quarterfinal blowout over Bates.
1	Place earned by the men's golf team in the NESCAC Championship this past weekend.
1	Place earned by the women's golf team at the Williams Spring Invitational this past weekend.

Editors' Picks



Questions	Jeff Klein	Kevin Carpenter	Emma Gardner	Kaitlynn Saldanha, Track
Will men's lacrosse win by at least five goals in their NESCAC semifinal game vs. Wesleyan?	YES I think the men are on a mission right now and will fly by the Cardinals at Alumni Stadium.	NO Men have been winning by a slim margin for most of the year. I see a close game in the mix.	NO With Stone leading the way I'm pulling for a win — but the Cardinals have proven that they are hard to beat this season.	NO Wesleyan will put up a good fight, but the Panthers will still come out on top.
After scoring 18 vs. Bates, will women's lax score at least 15 goals in their NESCAC semifinal game vs. Colby?	NO Colby allowed the fewest goals per game in the NESCAC this season. That's tough to argue with.	NO The women have found a formidable rival in Colby. It's going to be a thriller.	NO It's going to be a close one, but I think the defense on both sides will be in overdrive. Watch out for Cathy Gotwald!	YES With Delano on the field, anything is possible.
After going unblemished in NESCAC play, will the men's tennis team win the NESCAC Championship at Williams this weekend?	YES They haven't given us any reason to think they'll lose against NESCAC competition. Olson and company will continue to come up big.	YES I don't see any reason why they won't stay undefeated in NESCAC play. Bring home the plaque.	YES Under the tutelage of fearless leader Dave Schwartz, this team has great things in its future.	YES The Panthers are on the prowl, even after an undefeated regular season.
Will LeBron James drop at least 30 points in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Semifinals (opponent TBD)?	NO LeBron will throw up brick after brick in Game 1, and the Hawks will stun the Cavs in the opener. Yes O'Rourke, I am a Cavs hater.	YES BronBron has revived my hometown. I love him so much.	NO 30 points?! Come on, let's not get carried away with these questions, Jeff.	YES He seems like a good guy.
Will either the Chicago Bulls or Philadelphia 76ers, both heavy underdogs, win their first-round playoff series?	YES The Baby Bulls are about to come of age. You just watch.	NO Ray Allen is money and Dwight Howard's shoulders are too formidable.	NO I never cheer for the underdogs — if I can't win, I don't want to play.	NO Both teams are toast.
Career Record	66-87 (.431)	23-28 (.451)	37-52 (.416)	17-25 (.405)

Women's tennis falls despite powerful play

By Alex Lovett Woodsum
STAFF WRITER

The women's tennis team closed out its regular season at home on Saturday with a tough 7-2 loss to Amherst, the number two-ranked team in the region. On a sunny afternoon that saw temperatures climb into the mid-80s, the women fought hard and demonstrated the skills they have worked to hone all season. The team finished with a winning record (9-8) in the regular season and now looks forward to NESCACs this coming weekend, which will be hosted by top-ranked Williams.

Middlebury's number one doubles team of Tri-Captains Chandra Kurien '09 and Elizabeth Stone '09 lost their match to Amherst's Brittany Berckes and Natasha Brown, who are regionally ranked number three in doubles. Despite tough play, Kurien and Stone ultimately fell 8-3, but not before serving up some intense rallies and crowd-pleasing plays.

As a testament to their leadership, Kurien and Stone sat on the hot court instead of retiring to the shade after losing their match so they could cheer on the team on the adjacent court. The next court over, that sister-sister team of Tri-Captain Clare Burke '09 and first-year Anna Burke '12 won its match at number two against Amherst's Bell and Ankola, defeating them 8-4.

"Watching Clare and Anna play is funny because Clare refuses to get angry,"

said number one singles player Tori Aiello '12. "She'll just whip out some huge serves or hit the opponent at the net, especially if the person goes after her little sister. Anna is the same way. I think the other schools have learned by now not to mess with team 'Burke-Burke.'" Aiello and fellow first-year Alex Guynn '12 rounded out doubles play, losing their match 8-1 to the number three team from Amherst, leaving Middlebury trailing 2-1 leading into singles.

Aiello bounced back at number one singles, going up 3-2 against Berckes, who was forced by a shoulder injury to serve underhand before retiring altogether. Aiello had a breakout season this year, ending the regular season with a winning record at number one despite coming up against many players who had three more years of collegiate level play than she did. Kurien lost a tough first set 6-2 to Carlissa King, who was fresh from sitting out in the doubles round.

Kurien fought back hard in the second set but could not pull off the win, losing 7-5. The senior had a fantastic season in both singles and doubles, boasting a 7-2 league singles record — the best on the team. Following Kurien's tough loss, Middlebury was unable to turn things around as numbers three through six lost their matches. Despite this loss, the team remains optimistic.

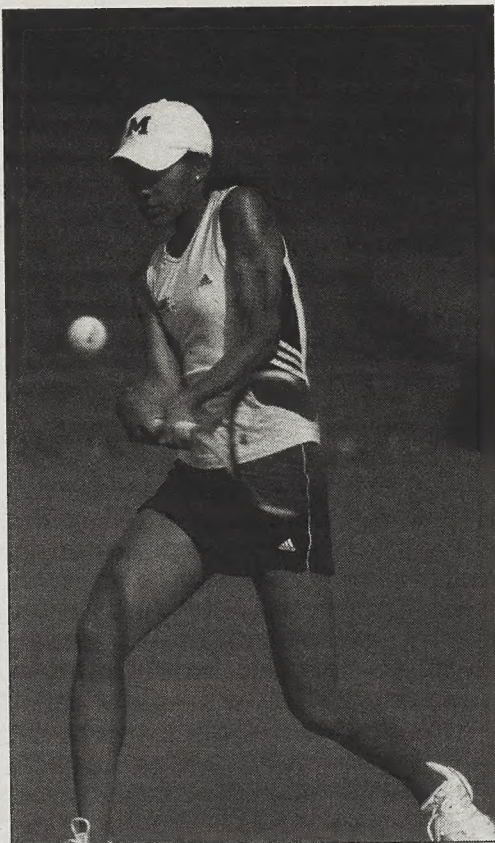
"It was a tough loss, but it was a beau-

tiful day for our last home match and our senior day," said the elder Burke. "I think we are going to have really focused practices this week and we are looking forward to going down to Williams. We are going to have three really tough matches, but that's what we've been working towards all season."

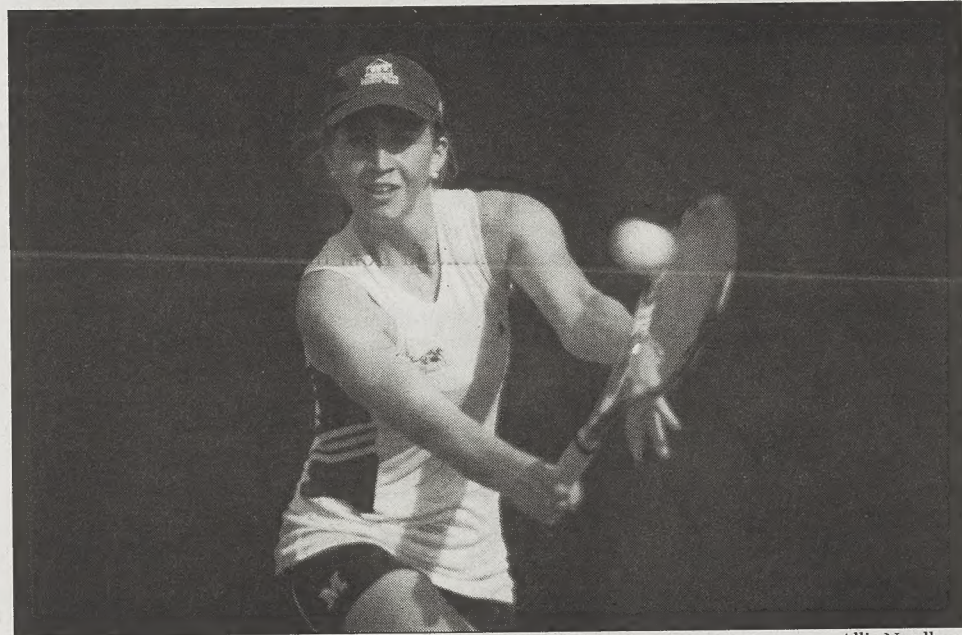
In light of senior day, some of the younger players reflected on the leadership of the three senior tri-captains. Jamie Haar '10 noted that, "when we played Williams a few weeks ago, Clare gave out little plastic bags with candy and notes with inspirational words for everyone on the team. It was a good idea and set a positive tone going into the match."

Aiello added that "[Stone and Kurien] paired up over spring break to make us food," appreciating in particular the guacamole made by Stone. She also noted that, during the fitness test, "Chandra was miles ahead of everyone, setting a tough pace. I guess that explains how she's able to win such long matches."

Under strong leadership by the tri-captains and head coach Mike Morgan, the team is definitely looking forward to NESCACs this coming weekend at Williams, hoping to avenge losses to Bowdoin, Williams and Amherst.



Allie Needham
Chandra Kurien '09 flexes her muscles in a match against the Lord Jeffs this past weekend.



Allie Needham
Anna Burke '12 strikes a backhand volley against rival Amherst this past Saturday.

Men's tennis prepares for playoffs at Williams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

doubles went undefeated this weekend."

The Panthers came back to the courts for the singles games holding a 2-1 edge over Amherst. However, the Jeffs surged back, tying the match at two-all when Thompson lost at number two singles. The match went back and forth, with Middlebury taking the number one and number four singles, while Amherst won at five and six.

Ultimately, the match came down to Lee's game at number three singles. Lee's opponent, Andrew Jung, took the early lead in the game winning the first set 6-2. Lee fought back to take the game to a third set, however, winning a tight tie-breaker

after facing a couple match points against. Lee sealed the match for the Panthers with his 7-5 victory in the third set silencing the large pro-Amherst crowd.

"This weekend was the biggest test of the season for our team so far," said Thompson, adding that "we had a lot of guys play some great tennis for us to come out with two wins against tough competition."

Looking ahead to NESCACs, both Thompson and Lee were confident, but stressed that the Panthers had some improvements to make before they were playoff ready.

"We will have to bring our best tennis again if we want to do well," concluded Thompson.

John Illig's adventures published in 'trail mix'

By Ted Silberman
STAFF WRITER

John Illig's love of the mountains blossomed out of his childhood summers at camp in the Adirondacks. Coaching collegiate squash gave him free summers to pursue this love and complete the hiker's "Triple Crown."

During three summers spaced six years apart, Illig hiked America's three premier mountain-range distance paths — the Appalachian, Pacific Crest and Continental Divide Trails. The trilogy of books he wrote tells the stories of these hikes and the personal valleys and peaks that he encountered along the way.

As "Trail Ways, Path Wise" begins, the first in the series, begins, "The hardest thing about through-hiking the Appalachian Trail is getting to the start." Walking a 2,146-mile trail is a serious undertaking and requires months of free time to trek through the woods, forgoing a paycheck.

Illig's three books, "Trail Ways, Path Wise," "Pacific Dream" and "Man in the Middle" take the reader along on his northbound journeys across the country. The introspective narratives describe such tribulations as seeing a man killed by a car in Virginia and the strains on his relationship with his new wife, who accompanied him for the beginning of his trek up the Pacific Crest. Of course, there were many high points to his

travels and the books also recount the joys he experienced along the way.

"The Appalachian Trail is hilarious because there are so many people of different ages and walks of life," said Illig. "Everyone has his or her own 'trail name' — a pseudonym that largely determines your trail ego."

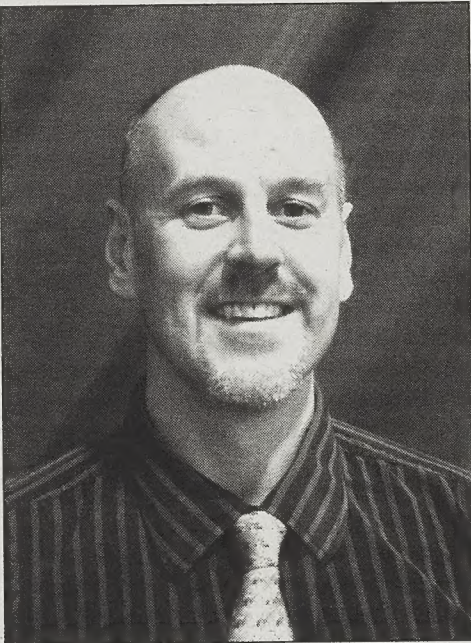
"Sneakers" — the moniker Illig got from his unusual choice of hiking footwear — encountered many people on his hikes. When asked if he made any friendships that lasted beyond the trail, he said, "I made many lifelong friends, but they only exist in my memory."

"The hardest part is getting there," said Illig. "At times, there is some discomfort, but when it comes down to it, this is just walking. Coaching squash during the winters meant I had no firm commitments during the summer. At

six-year intervals, I asked the director of athletics for special permission to take a mini-sabbatical and hike the trails."

After earning his degree in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Rochester, Illig moved to Maine and coached squash at Colby College for five years before moving on to Bates College for the next 11. While he loved the outdoorsy feel of the Maine schools, he jumped at the chance to come to Middlebury.

"Bates and Colby are great, but they aren't actually close to the mountains," said Illig. "When this position at Middlebury



Courtesy
Squash Head Coach John Illig is currently on a college tour promoting his trilogy of books that detail his hiking endeavors across America.

opened up I was eager to make the switch. This is my dream job — to be able to look

out any window and see the mountains," said Illig.

Through-hiking the three trails was a great way for Illig to surround himself with the wilderness he so enjoys. "I love mountains," said Illig. "It's a great feeling to reach the top and have the views. I like walking more now that I'm older. The hikes were a great opportunity to be out in nature."

For Illig, being out in the wilderness was always the most exciting part. "I spent my whole life in New England, so it was pretty thrilling to be out West. The landscapes out there are otherworldly beautiful."

Illig is currently promoting his books at various college outdoors clubs and marketing them on TripleCrownTrilogy.com, where the first two chapters of each book are available online. When not promoting or coaching he is working on a new novel — his first professional foray into fiction.

When asked if there is another trail to conquer or if he plans to go back and re hike the first three, he laughed and quipped, "No, that's it. It's just potato chips and TV for me now!"

Of course, he spends much of his time in the great outdoors, but now he focuses more on his writing. Stop by the Vermont Book Shop in town or check out Amazon.com to get your own copy and experience the writing and the mountains that Illig loves.

Cady '11 paces Panthers at home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

and nervous, it's easier to just relax if you're a little behind," added Ben Kunofsky '09, who had the low score on Saturday with a 76 and a 156 for the weekend. "We were in a good position after the first day, and we just went out and did it. Everyone shot their scores and it worked out." This relaxed attitude really helped the Panthers on the second day; Williams, on the other hand, struggled, shooting a 325. "Williams is a little inconsistent sometimes," said Cady. "I think they thought they had some more strokes than they did and they choked a little."

With Williams more or less out of the picture, Sunday turned into a three-horse race between Middlebury, Trinity and Hamilton. "It was pretty incredible when it was all said and done," said Kunofsky. "We were all really nervous watching the scores come in." Both of Middlebury's foes on the second day turned in a strong performance, with Trinity shooting a 305 and Hamilton matching their first day total

of 308. The Panthers put together a 300, dropping 13 strokes from Saturday and tying Trinity with a 613 for the weekend. The tie was broken after looking at the fifth score for both teams, which normally does not matter but became crucial on Sunday. Kunofsky, who had the low with his 76 on Saturday, shot an 80 on Sunday, and was able to just edge out Josh Grossman of Trinity, who shot an 82. Those two strokes were enough to give Middlebury the win.

From here, the Panthers will head to NCAAs, which has become an annual goal of the program. This year, however, with the strong play all season, their expectations are heightened. "The last few years the goal has always been to reach nationals," said Cady. "This year we're making a new goal of being competitive at nationals. It's definitely a step in the right direction for the program and we're absolutely going to try the make the most of it."

The Panthers have already played the courses where NCAAs will be held, having played at the Sunshine Invitational over spring break. "Playing in the exact same place is defi-

nately going to help," said Cady. "We know the facilities and we're very comfortable down there."

While the team isn't projected to be one of the best there, their invitation is certainly an accomplishment worth noting.

"Realistically, we're not one of the top competitors," said Cady, "but we're going to go down there and try to do something."



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

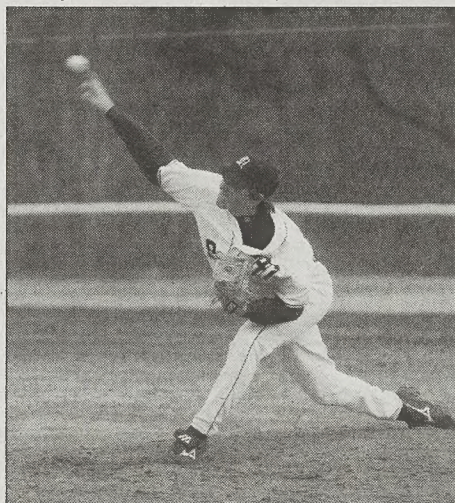
Ben Kunofsky '09.5 compiled a two-day score of 156, tying for eighth place overall.

Enns '10 catapults team to win with grand slam

By Dillon Hupp
STAFF WRITER

The weather finally turned around for Middlebury's penultimate weekend of baseball this season. Underneath beautiful skies and temperatures in the mid-80s, the Panthers opened a three-game series against division rival Hamilton last Friday.

The 150 fans who showed up for game one of the series were rewarded with an extra-innings thriller. Middlebury struck first in the



File Photo/Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

The Panthers went 2-1 with Hamilton this weekend.

bottom of the first inning, when Danny Seymour '10 scored after a fielding error by Hamilton's first baseman. The Panthers added another run in the third, when Mark Shimrock '09 drove in Tim Dillon '09 on an RBI single. Behind solid pitching from both teams, the score would remain 2-0 until the top half of the sixth, when Hamilton got across the plate two times — after a Middlebury error and a sacrifice fly — to make it 2-2.

The Panthers retook the lead in the seventh after an Andrew Matson '09 triple and a Peter Bourdon '09 sacrifice fly, but could not close it out in regulation after the Continentals scored again in the ninth. With Hamilton failing to take the lead after Bourdon threw out their player Grady Vigneau, the score remained 3-3 until the thirteenth inning, when Matson drove in Shimrock on a bases-loaded single with one out to win it for the Panthers. Middlebury got stellar pitching out of both Nick Angstman '11, who went nine innings and gave up only one earned run, and Matt Lowes '10, who earned the win.

Saturday's doubleheader was again greeted by beautiful weather as the Panthers and Continentals got set to finish up the series. Middlebury led through the first six innings of the game behind three RBIs apiece from Shimrock and Donny McKillop '11, but could not hold off a Hamilton rally in the top of the

seventh. Trailing 7-5, Hamilton drew two bases-loaded walks to tie the game, and then got two more runs on an RBI single to make it 9-7. An Erich Enns '10 double in the bottom half of the inning gave the Panthers life, but he never made it across homeplate as the next three batters went down in order, giving Hamilton the win. Scooter Scott '11 was the losing pitcher for Middlebury.

The rubber match of the series was another close one, this time falling in Middlebury's favor. The Panthers used a five-run fifth and a two-run seventh to get the 8-6 victory. Down 5-1 going into the bottom of the fifth after the Continentals put three on the board in their half of the inning, a Seymour RBI single cut the margin to three, and Middlebury got their first lead of the day a few batters later when Enns bombed a grand slam to left field.

Enns would add his second homer of the day two innings later, again stroking one to left in the bottom of the seventh to give Middlebury an 8-5 lead. Hamilton attempted a rally in the ninth, scoring one run, but Lowes was able to earn the save and preserve the 8-6 victory for the Panthers. After taking two of three, the Panthers improved to 13-15 on the year. Dirk van Duym '12 got the victory in game three, putting his record at 3-0 for the year.

sportsbriefs

By Dickie Redmond, Staff Writer

Women's golf wins Williams Invitational

Middlebury women's golf cruised past the competition this past weekend and took first place in the seven-team Williams Spring Invitational. Strong individual performances from veteran Julie Ellenberger '09 and rookie Flora Weeks '12 paced the team.

Ellenberger ended the event — held at the Taconic Golf Course — with a pair of 77s for a two-day total of 154. Her score was strong enough to capture the individual title.

Weeks followed Ellenberger on day one with a 77, and only scored one shot higher on Sunday to finish the tournament with a 155, earning her the second place spot.

Jessie Bluestein '11, Courtney Mazzei '11 and Elizabeth Hirsch '11 rounded off the Panther scorecard with two-day totals of 169, 171 and 179, respectively. The sophomore Panthers added depth to the Middlebury team, which finished nearly 20 points in front of the second place Mount Holyoke squad. Mount Holyoke golfer Zahra Aliza Hanif finished in third individually and propelled her team to the second place spot.

Middlebury towered over NES-CAC peers Amherst and Williams. The Lord Jeffs — who earned a recent first place victory at the Leaman Invitational — placed third, scoring over 20 points behind the Panthers. Williams finished lower, in sixth place with a team total of 682.

Middlebury looks to use their momentum from this past weekend when the team travels to Wellesley to face similar competition.

Softball concludes its season with double wins

Middlebury softball ended its season last week with two shutout victories in a doubleheader against Lyndon State College.

The Panthers traveled north to face off against their fellow Vermont school on Friday, winning their first game 9-0 and finishing the day off with an equally convincing 7-0 victory. The pair of wins propelled the team to a winning 17-15 overall record.

Geena Constantin '11 led the defense in the first game. The sophomore right-hander pitched for a total of five innings, averaging over a strikeout an inning — six in total — as she boosted the Panthers to their 16th win on the season.

Leslie Crawford '11 and Megan Margel '11 took over on offense, as Crawford went three-for-four with two runs and Margel added three RBIs to contribute to the crushing 9-0 win.

In the second game, the Panther pitching staff delivered equally strong performances. First-year Ashley Higgins '12 pitched for most of the game, allowing only three hits and no runs. Ali McAnaney '11 finished the game off with three strikeouts and no hits, sealing the deal in game two.

Amelia Magestrali '09 finished off her Middlebury career strong, as she went three-for-four with a run and an RBI.

Margel, Natalie Kornovsky '09, Nellie Wood '11 and Emily Burbridge '11 each helped on offense with two hits as the Panthers finished the season with one more shutout victory.

The Middlebury Great Eight

Rank	Team	Carpenter's Comments	4/16	
1	Men's golf	Men top Trinity in tiebreaker to win NESCACs. After seeing "Happy Gilmore," I never thought golf could be exciting again. I guess I was wrong.	7	<p>Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor</p> <p>Could it be? Yes, in fact, it can. The men's golf team's first-place finish in the NESCAC championship catapults them to first place in this week's Great Eight.</p>
2	Men's tennis (17-2)	Men finish undefeated in regular season NESCAC play with a 8-1 win over Williams and a tight 5-4 win at Amherst. No hate this week.	2	
3	Men's lacrosse (13-1)	The Panthers maim the Lord Jeffs in a 16-7 win over the weekend. A solid squad sends Amherst back to their cradles. Puns galore!	1	
4	Women's golf	Women's golf captures first place at Williams Invitational. Second-place Mt. Holyoke finishes 18 strokes behind the Panthers. Ouch.	3	
5	Women's lacrosse (7-4)	The women destroy Bates 18-4 on Sunday. I guess the women can be 'sweet laxers' too.	4	
6	Track & field	Women place second at NESCACs. Unfortunately, a mediocre performance from the men killed the team's chance for glory in the 'Great Eight.'	6	
7	Baseball (13-15)	Middlebury won the first game this past weekend. Hamilton won the second game. Erich Enns '10 won the final game with a grand slam. So money.	—	
8	Women's tennis (9-7)	Middlebury got served by the Lord Jeffs. It's all about the puns.	5	

Women's lacrosse swiftly ousts the Bobcats

By Julia Ireland
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team made a statement in the NESCAC quarterfinals this Sunday against the Bates Bobcats. Middlebury dominated Bates from the beginning, taking the lead early and giving Bates no room to even attempt to come back.

The Panther defense held the Bobcats to only eight shots on net through the entire game, employing their unique "backer" defense.

"It's designed to always put pressure on the ball, whether at the top of the eight-meter or behind the goal. We always want at

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Sunday, April 26

Bates	4
Middlebury	18

least one person making it difficult for the ball handler to drive or feed," explained defender Caroline Kirkendoll '09. "We've had a ton of success with it this season because all of our defenders are fast and aggressive and we work really well together so we are ready for anything that gets thrown at us."

The system certainly proved effective in shutting down the

Bobcats; goalies Blair Bowie '09 and Lily Nguyen '12 had to make only two saves each in net.

With the support of the defense, Middlebury's offense was able to attack with full force. The Panthers scored five straight goals in 10 minutes to command an early 6-1 lead. Chase Delano '11, Sally Ryan '11 and Dana Heritage '10 proved to be a deadly combination on offense.

Delano opened Middlebury's scoring, followed by Heritage who converted a free-position shot and tallied again right after. Heritage then fed Ryan for two goals and added another free-position shot to end the first half. Halftime found Middlebury with a 9-2 lead.

"[Head Coach Missy Foote] reminded us that our lead was not all that big and that they could definitely come back if we gave them a chance, so we really made an effort to get control of the draw and double ground balls to ensure possession," said Kirkendoll.

"We always try to maintain our level of play, even when we take off with a huge lead, because the truth is, we've all been down and still managed a great comeback," added defender Taylor

Brown '11. "We look at each half as separate parts of the game and realize that in both halves, we need to play with an equally high intensity for a win." Brown provided solid defense for the Panthers throughout the game, controlling five ground balls and causing four Bobcat turnovers.

The Panthers met the second half with the same intensity and focus that they brought to the first.

Ryan started a scoring streak, netting a free-position shot. Elizabeth Garry '12 and Alice Demmerle '09 each scored in the spurt to give Middlebury a 12-2 lead. Despite two Bobcat tallies in the second half, Middlebury ended with a four-goal run to finish the game with a convincing 18-4 score.

The team is already looking to next weekend, when they will take on Colby College in the semifinal game. Colby has become a serious rival for Middlebury in the past two seasons, as Middlebury lost to Colby in the NESCAC finals last season and dropped a double-overtime game to the Mules this season.

"After what happened last year in NESCACs and this year when we lost in double-OT over



Grace Duggan, Photo Editor

A determined Alice Demmerle '09 races downfield against Bates.

spring break, we can't wait to get back on the field with them," said Kirkendoll. "After the last few weeks, I think we are all playing at the top of our game, we just have to come out and want it more than they do."

"They have had a great season and they have become tough opponents, but we're ready to face them again and show them how

we play lacrosse," Brown added.

If the end of the Panthers' season — which they ended with four straight NESCAC wins — is any indication, they are more than up to the challenge of facing Colby once again.

Middlebury will take on the Mules in the NESCAC Semifinals this Saturday, May 2 at 2:30 p.m. at Tufts University.



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

Michael McCormick '09 reads the green at Ralph Myhre Golf Course. He was part of an inspired team effort that catapulted the Panthers to victory.

Men's golf triumphs in NESCAC playoff

By James Schwerdtman
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, the men's golf team had the luxury of competing on their home course, and came up clutch, winning the NESCAC Championship for the first time since 2006 and for the third time in the program's history. The win marks another high point in what has been arguably the best season ever for the program.

After an exciting and nerve-wracking finish, the Panthers claimed victory in a tiebreaker over Trinity. The team got to host the tournament after winning NESCAC qualifiers in the fall, which also took place on the Panthers' Ralph Myhre Golf Course. With

the victory, the Panthers gain an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

The Panthers finished the first day down seven strokes to Williams, 306 to 313, with Trinity and Hamilton both two strokes behind the Ephs with scores of 308. "Being down seven strokes after the first day is a very good position to be coming from," said Brian Cady '11, who led the team and came in second for the tournament with a 149 for the weekend and a par 71 on Sunday, the low for the tournament. "Realistically, for a team that's not many shots down ... and when people in the lead get tight

SEE CADY '11, PAGE 23

Tennis finishes season undefeated in NESCAC

By Martin Breu
STAFF WRITER

Men's tennis finished its regular season undefeated this weekend, taking key victories over Williams and Amherst. The Panthers were too good for Williams, winning 8-1, and while Amherst proved more difficult, Middlebury prevailed 5-4. With these wins, the Panthers earned the top ranking in the upcoming NESCAC tournament.

The Panthers started off their weekend with Saturday's home match against Williams. The Ephs are a perennial rival of Middlebury and were ranked seventh in the country going into the match. The competition was held on the Proctor courts under sunny blue skies, with temperatures hovering in the mid-80s.

The competition started off with the doubles matches, in which the Panthers excelled, sweeping the three games. David Farah '12 and Tri-Captain Andrew Thompson '10 showed the way with their 8-4 win over the Ephs' number one doubles team.

The new Panther doubles teams — Tri-Captain Andrew Lee '10 with Rich Bonfiglio '11.5, and Tri-Captain Conrad Olson '09 with Andrew Peters '11 — collected the victories at number two and number three doubles,

respectively.

When the match switched over to singles, the Panthers did not give Williams any opportunity to get back into the match, taking five of the six singles games for the win. Lee clinched the match for Middlebury with his 6-1, 6-3 victory at number three singles.

"Everyone came ready to compete against Williams," said Lee, adding that "it was really nice to have the momentum of that convincing win [going into] the Amherst match on Sunday."

The Panthers needed all the momentum they could muster going up against the tough, fifth-ranked Amherst squad. The winner of the match was going to be assured the number one seed in the NESCAC tournament.

The match started off with the Panthers taking two of the three doubles matches. The new doubles teams of Lee with Bonfiglio and

Olson with Peters again proved their strength, winning 8-5 and 9-7, respectively.

"The changes in doubles teams really seemed to work well," said Thompson, pointing out that number two and number three

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, PAGE 22



Allie Needham

Andrew Thompson '10 follows through on a forceful backhand in the Panthers' triumph vs. Williams.

this week in sports

Hiking exploits of John Illig
Squash coach John Illig discusses his trilogy of hiking books, page 22.



games to watch
Men's lacrosse NESCAC semifinal vs. Wesleyan, May 2 at 12:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Bowdoin, May 2 at 3:30 p.m.



Women's rugby
Read about how the female ruggers fared at the Ruggers Against Rape tourney, page 21.